Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 122

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY JUNE 21, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

371st COVID-19-related death in Guam. PAGE 2

Hofschneider is acting governor. PAGE 4

$1

IPI tightens security at casino site

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following a fire the broke out behind the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC hotel and casino construction site in Garapan, the casino investor has opted to tighten security in the area.

Last June 9, the District Court for the NMI ordered IPI to provide a report regarding

See IPI on Page 4

IN PASSAGE OF BILL EXEMPTING CPA'S AIRPORT REVS FROM OPA FEE

Senate action disappoints Peter

Peter

» OPA asks OIA's aid to get FAA's final determination on revenue diversion issue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Auditor Kina B. Peter expressed disappointment yesterday with the Senate's passage of a House of Representatives' bill that would exempt the Commonwealth Ports Authority from paying the 1% Office of the Public Auditor fee for airport revenues.

Peter said it's disappointing because they tried to fully explain

See SENATE on Page 4

The USS *Jackson* will be docked at the Port of Saipan until June 29, 2022.

KIMBERLY ESMORES

USS *Jackson* makes port call on Saipan

Months since welcoming the last Department of Defense vessel to visit the island, Saipan once again opened it port to another U.S. naval ship, this time the USS *Jackson*, which will be staying in the CNMI until the end of the month.

According to the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, the USS *Jackson* arrived at the Port of Saipan at 10am yesterday morning, bringing with it over 100 military personnel who will be on the island until June 29 to conduct ship inspection, maintenance,

See USS on Page 4

How much for gas? Around the world, pain is felt at the pump

By DANIEL NIEMANN, PAOLA CORONA, JADE LE DELEY and HAU DINH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLOGNE, Germany (AP)—At a gas station near the Cologne, Germany, airport, Bernd Mueller watches the digits quickly climb on the pump: 22 euros ($23), 23 euros, 24 euros. The numbers showing how much gasoline he's getting rise, too. But much more slowly. Painfully slowly.

"I'm getting rid of my car

See GAS on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg is pushing airlines pn behalf of their customers.

PAGE 11

NATION
A 70-foot yacht burned and sank in New Hampshire, sending three people to the hospital.

PAGE 12

ASIA
Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing Philippine president, takes her oath as vice president.

PAGE 13

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

GUAM COVID UPDATE:

371st COVID-19-related fatality; 165 new cases

The Joint Information Center in Guam was notified yesterday that Guam's 371st COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on June 18, 2022. The patient was a 32-year-old female, partially vaccinated, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on June 18.

"[First gentleman] Jeff [Cook], [Lt. Gov.] Josh [Tenorio], and I pray for healing for her friends and family," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "We have seen that this virus has no limitations on who it can impact. Those with underlying conditions are also considered our most vulnerable. Let's look out for one another and recognize symptoms early on, get tested, and get treatment. To those who have yet to do so, please get vaccinated and boosted if it's your time."

Also, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services reported 165 new cases of COVID-19 from 2,452 specimens analyzed from tests administered June 17 – 19, 2022:

■ June 20: Four of 401 test positive for COVID-19

■ June 19: 97 of 1,047 test positive for COVID-19

■ June 18: 64 of 1,004 test positive for COVID-19

To date, there have been a total of 50,773 officially reported cases, 371 deaths, 500 cases in active isolation, and 49,902 not in active isolation. ***(PR)***

Step up your summer!
Disney+
Sign up for a plan and bring home so much more:
The chance to WIN free Disney+ for 1 year
Up to $50 in FREE gas and a surprise freebie!
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid 06/21/22 to 07/31/22. Fuel vouchers and freebies available while supplies last. Rota and Tinian residents will receive Ace Hardware Gift Cards while supplies last. Contract on a 8 GB/$35 Plan or higher required. Contract renewals not eligible for freebie. Subject to credit check. Visit ite.net or see stores for details.
PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

'Good teams, good people key to success in hosting NMPMG'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has described the decision whether to press ahead or not with the CNMI's hosting of this Pacific Mini Games as "difficult," considering that the CNMI has been facing economic challenges and its people are still recovering from the one-two punches of typhoons and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to a question during a radio press briefing last Friday, Torres said that after the devastations of Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015, and Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, the CNM has been working very hard on its recovery. After the disasters then came the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Yet Torres said they had to prioritize this Pacific Mini Games as well because they believe it's not only about the athletes, but about representing CNMI families and hope for the children.

"So that was a big challenge because of all the disasters and now with the pandemic," he said.

The governor said they, however, have good teams—COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muna, and others. "I have good teams and good people that have worked around the clock to make this happen," he said.

The Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, the largest event ever held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, was originally scheduled to take place in 2021 but had to be postponed because of the pandemic.

Marco T. Peter is the chairman of the Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee, while Vicente "Ben" Babauta serves as the committee's chief executive officer. Jerry Tan is president of the Northern Marianas Sports Association. Bob Coldeen serves as Chef de Mission.

The administration committed $4 million in American Rescue Plan Act money to fund the Games.

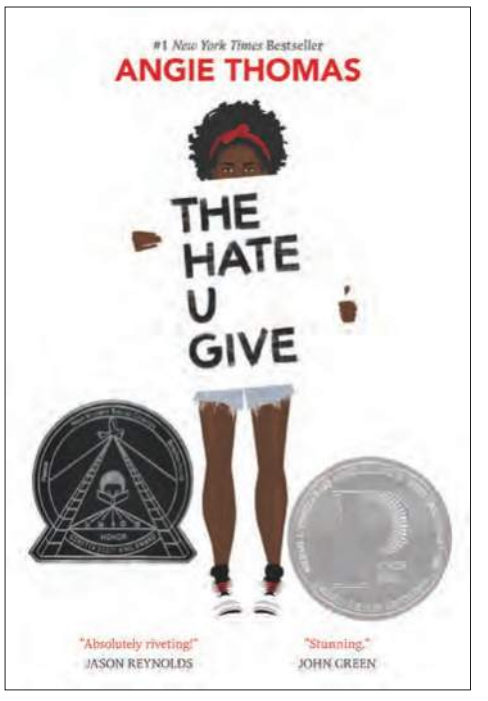
Book club discussion at JKPL on banned and challenged books

The Marianas Writers Movement will be hosting a book club discussion on banned and challenged books on Saturday, June 25, 2022, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Discussions will be focusing on The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. Read a review of this book at the Marianas Writers Movement website and read blog posts about banned and challenged books too. There will also be a free books giveaway at the June 25 event.

Other banned and challenged books will be available to borrow from the JKPL.

For more information, check out the Marianas Writers Movement at its website, https://marianaswritersmovement.org. ***(PR)***



Learn how to market to the fed govt

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering two webinars a week this June. If the usual Thursday webinar doesn't work for you, then join them on Tuesdays!

Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ June 21 and June 23 – Marketing to the Federal Government—The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company noticed by government buyers.

Register for free at https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Man serves five-day sentence for beating his ex over an air purifier

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has sentenced a man to serve five days in prison after he pleaded guilty to assault and battery-domestic violence in the case where he beat his ex-girlfriend over an air purifier.

Following a change of plea hearing last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho sentenced Roland Benavente Salas, 36, to an imprisonment term of one year, all suspended except for five days, and was given credit for two days of time served.

"The first five days is to be served day for day without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work release, weekend release, or other similar program, with credit for time served of two days. The remaining sentence is suspended and may be imposed in whole or in part for violation of law or Office of the Adult Probation rules," the judge said.

In exchange for pleading guilty to one count, the court agreed to dismiss count two; disturbing the peace to include domestic violence.

Following his imprisonment, Salas will be placed under supervised probation for a period of two years upon his release. He was also directed to pay court cost of $25, and a probation fee of $120 per year.

In addition, Salas was ordered by the court to report to the Office of Adult Probation on the next business day he is released from the Department of Corrections.

"Probation will have Community Guidance Center evaluate defendant within 30 days, for any recommended course of treatment; focused on anger management, mental health evaluation, drug treatment and alcohol counselling. If after evaluation CGC does recommend counseling, defendant must complete all recommended counseling/treatment within the probationary period," Camacho said.

Salas, while on probation, is prohibited from possessing or consuming alcohol, marijuana or controlled substances, and shall subject himself to blood, breath, or urine tests if the Office of Adult Probation demands it.

The defendant is also prohibited from possessing or using a firearm, any dangerous device, dangerous weapon, ammunition, or soft air weapons within the probationary period.

"Failure to comply with any of the conditions (except for minor traffic infractions) shall constitute a violation of the terms and conditions of the suspended sentence and shall subject defendant to additional charges and revocation proceedings," the judge stated.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety officers responded to a disturbance at a residence in San Vicente last Feb. 4, at about 7:19pm but it wasn't until Feb. 28 when police met with the victim to interview her.

The victim told police that about two months into her relationship with Salas, she became pregnant with their son but their relationship ended during her pregnancy.

Then, on the evening of Feb. 4, the victim said she went to the apartment they previously shared in San Vicente to pick up their son. About five minutes later, the victim said Salas allegedly asked her where his air purifier was, to which she responded it was for their son and that it was at her parents' house in San Vicente.

The victim said that Salas grabbed her hair with his left hand and was standing over her telling her, "Didn't I tell you to stop stealing?" The victim said Salas then hit the right side of her head once and kicked her on her legs.

As the victim tried to get away, Salas allegedly smacked and punched her, swinging his right arm and hitting her, causing her to fall and hit her head on a nearby chair.

CNMI-BOUND
Signs showing the 20 visiting countries for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and their distance from Saipan are seen on display at the 23rd Annual Taste of the Marianas at the Garapan Fishing Base.

LEIGH GASES

TOYOTA
~SUMMER~
SAIPAN IS
TACOMA
TERRITORY
FEATURES
• Never Rust Composite Bed
• Multi-information Display
• Touch Screen Monitor
• Heavy Duty Adjustable Tie-Down Cleats
• Rear Backup Camera
• Standard Toyota Safety Sense (Lane Departure Alert with Assist, Automatic High Beams, Pre-Collision System)
GET UP TO
$1,000*
DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE
PLUS,
$250*
FREE GAS
ON YOUR NEW 2022 TOYOTA TACOMA ACCESS CAB
*On approved credit. Terms and conditions apply. See dealer for details. Vehicle not exactly as shown. While supplies last.
SINCE 1914
Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950
Call 234-5911
Showroom Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm
HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.
Shop online at AKsaipan.com

Torres off-island; Hofschneider is acting governor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hofschneider

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) has been designated acting governor as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is currently off-island.

In a memorandum issued Saturday, Torres informed all department and activity heads that he will be off-island from Saturday to Friday, June 24.

Torres said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is currently off-island.

Last Thursday, Palacios' office disclosed that he has been discharged from the intensive care unit of the Queens Healthcare Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was released to a primary care physician for outpatient care.

Torre said that, until Palacios' return, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider shall be acting governor.

"I advise all departments and agencies to ensure all actions, documents, and correspondences during this time reflect this assumption of authority," Torres said.

The governor did not indicate where he is going and the purpose of his trip.

Saipan Tribune, however, learned that the governor is off-island for personal matters.

GAS

From Page 1

this October, November," said Mueller, 80. "I'm retired, and then there's gas and all that. At some point, you've got to scale back."

Across the globe, drivers like Mueller are rethinking their habits and personal finances amid skyrocketing prices for gasoline and diesel, fueled by Russia's war in Ukraine and the global rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Energy prices are a key driver of inflation that is rising worldwide and making the cost of living more expensive.

A motorcycle taxi driver in Vietnam turns off his ride-hailing app rather than burn precious fuel during rush-hour backups. A French family scales back ambitions for an August vacation. A graphic designer in California factors the gas price into the bill for a night out. A mom in Rome, figuring the cost of driving her son to camp, mentally crosses off a pizza night.

Decisions across the world's economy are as varied as the consumers and countries themselves: Walk more. Dust off that bicycle. Take the subway, the train or the bus. Use a lighter touch on the gas pedal to save fuel. Review that road trip—is it worth it? Or perhaps even go carless.

For the untold millions who don't have access to adequate public transportation or otherwise can't forgo their car, the solution is to grit their teeth and pay while cutting costs elsewhere.

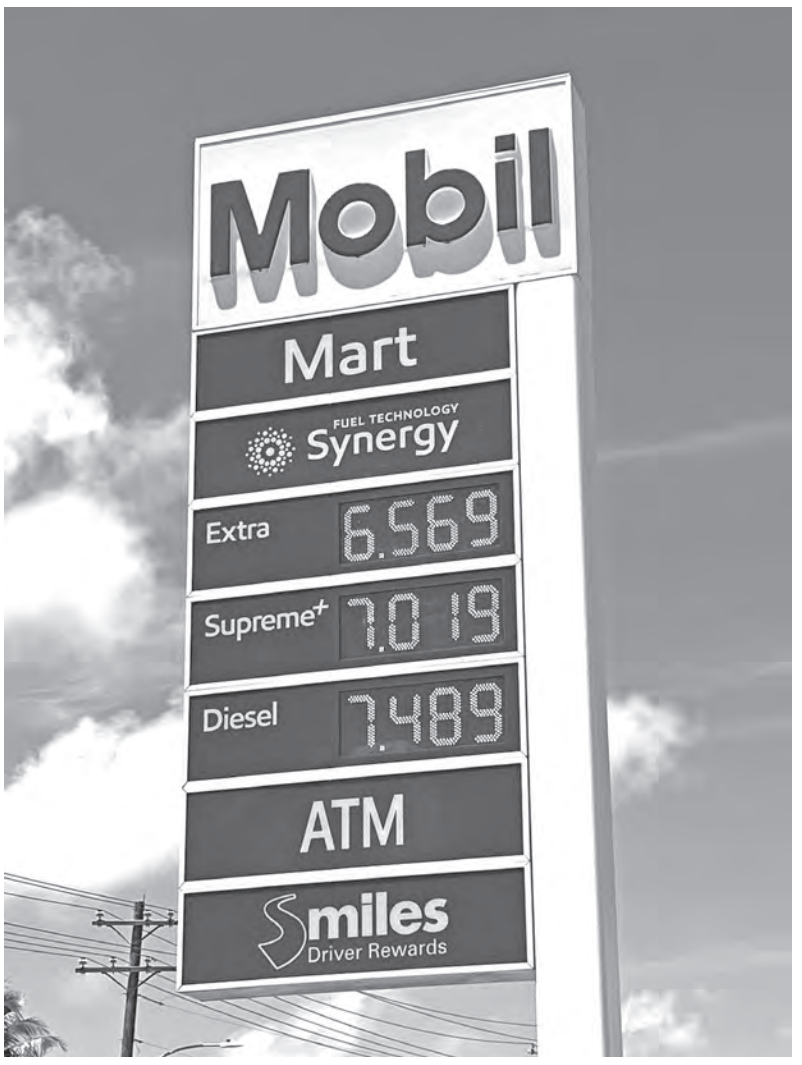
Nguyen Trong Tuyen, a motorcycle taxi driver working for the Grab online ride-hailing service in Hanoi, Vietnam, said he's been simply switching off the app during rush hour.

"If I get stuck in a traffic jam, the ride fee won't cover the gasoline cost for the trip," he said.

Many drivers have been halting their services like Tuyen, making it difficult for customers to book rides.

In Manila, Ronald Sibeyee used to burn 900 pesos ($16.83) worth of diesel a day to run his jeepney, a colorfully decorated vehicle popular for public transportation in the Philippines that evolved from U.S. military jeeps left behind after World War II. Now, it's as much as 2,200 pesos ($41.40).

"That should have been our income already. Now there's nothing, or whatever is left," he said. His income has fallen about 40% due to the fuel price hikes.



Fuel continues to grow more expensive, with local oil companies raising their prices by another 15 cents late last Wednesday. KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Gasoline and diesel prices are a complex equation of the cost of crude oil, taxes, the purchasing power and wealth of individual countries, government subsidies where they exist, and the cut taken by middlemen such as refineries. Oil is priced in dollars, so if a country is an energy importer, the exchange rate plays a role—the recently weaker euro has helped push up gasoline prices in Europe.

And there's often geopolitical factors, such as the war in Ukraine. Buyers shunning Russian barrels and Western plans to ban the country's oil have jolted energy markets already facing tight supplies from the rapid pandemic rebound.

There's a global oil price—around $110 a barrel—but no global pump price due to taxes and other factors. In Hong Kong and Norway, you can pay more than $10 per gallon. In Germany, it can be around $7.50 per gallon, and in France, about $8. While lower fuel taxes mean the U.S. average for a gallon of gas is somewhat cheaper at $5, it's still the first time the price has been that high.

People in poorer countries quickly feel the stress from higher energy prices, but Europeans and Americans also are being squeezed. Americans have less access to public transport, and even Europe's transit networks don't reach everyone, particularly those in the countryside.

Charles Dupont, manager of a clothing store in Essonne region south of Paris, simply has to use his car to commute to work.

"I practice eco-driving, meaning driving slower and avoiding sudden braking," he said.

Others are doing what they can to cut back. Letizia Cecinelli, filling her car at a Rome gas station, said she was biking and trying to reduce car trips "where possible."

"But if I have a kid and I have to take him to camp? I have to do it by cutting out an extra pizza," she said.

USS

From Page 1

and for liberty ashore.

The USS *Jackson*, which was launched back in 2013, is an Independence-class littoral combat ship with a length of 418 feet. The vessel can travel at a speed of 54 mph with a capacity of 210 tons.

The USS *Jackson* also carries two Department of Defense helicopters: an MH-60R/S Seahawks and MQ-8 Fire Scout. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

SENATE

From Page 1

their position with regards to the accounting policy around it and that they were not given the opportunity to get a final determination first from the Federal Aviation Administration on the revenue diversion issue.

In the same interview, Peter said they are in contact with the Office of Insular Affairs to work through at least getting a final FAA determination on the matter.

"From my experience, we know that the federal government will typically not come in and shut down operations. Rather, they will understand the position of, at least in this case, the law," Peter said.

She said she has not gotten the time to talk with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on his position, but she knows that Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig opposes the legislation.

With the Senate's unanimous passage of House Bill 22-102, HS1, HD1, during a special session last Friday, the bill now goes to the governor's desk.

The House passed the legislation last June 13, also despite Peter's opposition. It was only Reps. Christina E. Sablan, Leila F. Staffler, and Edwin K. Propst who voted against the passage of the bill. All are Democrats.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the main author of the legislation.

All government agencies and autonomous agencies are required to allocate 1% of their annual budget to OPA. CPA only has an issue with its airport revenues being charged the 1% OPA fee; it does not object to its seaport revenues being charged the same. CPA's explanation is that its federal grantor, the FAA, has raised the issue that this 1% fee might be considered a form of "revenue diversion."

Considering that this 1% allocation from the different government agencies and autonomous agencies is what's funding OPA's operations and functions, Peter had asked the Legislature to allow OPA as a regulatory agency of the CNMI to function and exist without the continued threat to its funding and independence.

Peter said that enacting this legislation without a definitive answer from FAA whether CPA's payment of the 1% OPA fee is "revenue diversion" does not represent good governance.

In her earlier comments on the bill, Peter stated that this legislation not only would exempt some agencies from paying 1% of their budget to OPA but would also forgive a $40-million debt owed the CNMI government.

Villagomez stated in the bill that the exemption provides financial relief to the autonomous agencies and public corporations that do not utilize the audit service of the OPA in the first place.

IPI

From Page 1

the status of security at the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino and the fire that broke out at the site on June 6.

According to a notice filed by IPI attorneys Joey San Nicolas and Kevin Abikoff last Friday, prior to the fire, IPI had a security checkpoint at the front entrance to the IPR building that was manned full-time—24 hours a day, seven days a week. However, the rear entrance to the IPR site was previously manned on a part-time schedule.

"On the weekend prior to the fire, IPI had a security officer assigned to the rear entrance from 11pm to 7am Friday–Sunday," the attorneys reported.

Now, following the fire, IPI has security personnel manning both the front and back entrances to the IPR site on a full-time basis.

"All entrances to the casino building are either locked or manned, full-time, by IPI security personnel," the notice stated.

The lawyers also gave the court insight on the fire itself.

IPI reported that a fire broke out on June 6 in the rear construction yard adjacent to the back entrance to the IPR site.

The fire appeared to have begun sometime between 10:24am and 10:55am, when the security supervisor identified smoke from the construction yard and contacted a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services firefighter who had already responded to the scene due to reports of smoke near Garapan.

"At this time, IPI is unaware of the cause of the fire. IPI has requested an incident report from [DFEMS] but has not yet received that report. [DFEMS] arrived at the IPR site at approximately 10:55am, at which time IPI's security supervisor instructed them to break a padlock securing IPI's rear entrance in order to quickly gain access to the construction yard. Fire Department personnel entered the construction yard and quickly extinguished the fire. Fire Department personnel then conducted a site assessment before departing the IPR site at 12:02pm. The fire was concentrated on the east side of the rear construction yard, near where construction materials are stacked, including spools of electrical wires, waterproofing membranes, decorative metal frames, stones, steel wires, and glassfibre reinforced concrete panels. Some of these construction materials, particularly the waterproofing membranes, suffered extensive heat damage," the lawyers said.

Fortunately, there was no damage to the IPR structure or to any materials contained inside the casino site, they added.

NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022
RISING UP TO THE CHALLENGE!
JUNE 17 - 25, 2022 | www.northernmarianas2022.com
PLATINUM
JOETEN DAIDAI FOUNDATION
GALLERIA
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
IT&E
GOLD
docomo pacific
FISHGUYZ
LSG Sky Chefs
SILVER
Mobil
NMTECH
Bank of Guam
SHADED RENTALS
BRONZE
AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN • CHONG'S CORPORATION
FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK • GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN
HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY • ISLANDER RENT A CAR • MATSON
MICRONESIAN AIR CARGO SERVICES • SAIPAN ICE & WATER
SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC.
HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SPORTSMANSHIP
Cepeda Tent Rental • EST Rental • Hwang Jae Corporation
Kalayaan, Inc. • Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
RNV Construction • Saipan Shipping Company, Inc.
Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance • Island Cafe

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL
CUC-RAESP-22-027

A&E Design Services For Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Water System Mitigation Project PH II, PH I.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from FEMA HMGP.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RAESP-22-027, A&E Design Services for Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 27, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 6, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-029
REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-029, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 7, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer at westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

CNMI winners named in 9th Circuit's Civics Contest, Law Day Photo Contest

Front row: Samantha Flores, John Lawrence Apit, Yu Rong Jiang, Tyler Camacho, and Grace Ju. Back row: Xinyi Ni, Wendy Zha, Amena Mahmud, Seongeon Heo, and Grace Kim. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School Language Arts teacher Ashley Beck, far left, receives the award certificate for her student, Jenny Min. Beck poses with the other civics essay contest winners, from left to right, Samantha Flores, John Lawrence Apit, and Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The U.S. District Court for the NMI recently recognized the winners of this year's Ninth Circuit Civics Contest and Law Day Photo Contest.

The Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is an essay and video contest for high school students in the western United States and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. This year's theme focused on The First Amendment and the Schoolhouse Gate: Students' Free Speech Rights. The civics contest was open to high school students in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, the U.S. territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Students were invited to submit creative and thoughtful videos and/or essays capturing the theme that focused on students' free speech rights. The contest challenged students to address "What are students' free speech rights—and responsibilities—on and off campus?"

In the CNMI, a total of five videos and 88 essays ranging from 500 to 1,000 words in length were submitted to the Ninth Circuit The essays were returned to the NMI District Court without any name or school identifiers to be judged solely on the students' understanding of constitutional principles, clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme, grammar, spelling, and composition, and use of footnotes and bibliographies properly attributing information taken from other sources.

The winners for the essay contest were:

- First place ($100): John Lawrence Apit (Marianas High School)
- Second place ($75): Jenny Min (Marianas High School)
- Third Place ($50): Samantha Flores (Marianas High School)

This year's video contest winners were:

- First Place ($100): Wendy Zha (Marianas High School)
- Second Place ($75): Amena Mahmud (Marianas High School)
- Third Place ($50): Grace Ju (Marianas High School)

The first-place video and essay are published on the District Court's website at https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov/newsDetail.php?Northern-Mariana-Islands---2022-Ninth-Circuit-Civics-Contest-Winners-192 and were submitted to the Ninth Circuit to compete with the first-place winners in other districts for a cash price of $3,000 (first place), $1,700 (second place), or $1,000 (third place).

In celebration of Law Day, the District Court also held its second annual Law Day Photo Contest during May. Law Day is celebrated nationally on May 1 to recognize the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that we all enjoy. The 2022 Law Day theme was "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change." The photo contest was open to all public and private school students in the CNMI in grades 6 through 12. Students were asked to give a brief description of how their photo captured the theme. Photos were judged according to originality, creativity, and how well the photo represented the theme.

The high school winners were:

- First place: Wendy Zha (11th Grade, Marianas High School)
- Second place: Xinyi Ni (11th Grade, Kagman High School)
- Third place: Amena Mahmud (11th Grade, Marianas High School)

The middle school winners were:

- First place: Tyler Camacho (7th Grade, Chacha Oceanview Middle School)
- Second place: Yu Rong Jiang (7th Grade, Francisco Sablan Middle School)

An award ceremony was held on June 3, 2022, on the third-floor courtroom for the participants of both the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest and Law Day Photo Contest. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona was present to congratulate the students. The winning photos are published on the District Court's website at https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov/newsDetail.php?2022-Law-Day-Photo-Contest-Winners-191. . ***(PR)***

Child care providers attend workshop on executive functioning skills

Child care providers on Saipan participate in a two-hour workshop on Executive Functioning Skills at the Evergreen Learning Office in Chalan Kanoa last June 11, 2022. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fifteen child care providers from different programs throughout Saipan participated in a two-hour workshop last June 11, 2022, on Executive Functioning Skills: Methods to improve them in children through interactions and relationships.

The workshop was conducted by Evergreen Learning coach Russelle Mae Ignacio and facilitated at the Evergreen Learning Office in Chalan Kanoa.

One of the objectives of this workshop was to provide an introduction to the seven essential life skills:

■ Skill One- Focus and Self Control
■ Skill Two-Perspective Taking
■ Skill Three-Communicating
■ Skill Four- Making Connections
■ Skill Five-Critical Thinking
■ Skill Six-Taking on Challenges
■ Skill Seven- Self Directed, Engaged Learning

In addition, participants learned ways in which, as adults, they can develop these skills through responsive and meaningful interaction and daily activities with the children they provide care for. Lastly, participants engaged in creating a list of appropriate activities that will encourage children to use their executive functioning skills.

Executive functioning skills include children's ability to be in charge of their actions, thoughts, emotions, and responses to achieve their goals. Attendees were able to fully grasp the definition and how they can integrate these practices in their daily routines and interactions with children by providing a variety of related activities. The facilitator played clips to show examples on how providers can help children's brain development in their first early years, along with "serve and return interaction." Serve and return interaction is used to promote a lot of back-and-forth interaction between the child and the adult. The main source for this workshop was the book *Mind in The Making* by Ellen Galinsky. This two-hour workshop will be counted toward each providers' Child Care and Development Fund Program's required annual training hours. ***(PR)***

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Representing the People of the Northern Mariana Islands
presents
THE 6TH ANNUAL NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Create an app for any platform, using any coding language, and submit it for a chance to have your work on display in the U.S. Capitol Building.
Register online at CongressionalAppChallenge.us and submit your app by:
NOVEMBER 1, 2022
More information can be found at sablan.house.gov or by calling 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-021

Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1, for Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RAESP-22-021, Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAESP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAESP under the contract. The RASEP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAESP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Engineer for Power Division via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-022

Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1 for Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked ***"CUC-RAESP-22-022, Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAESP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAESP under the contract. The RASEP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAESP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Engineer for Power Division via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 122

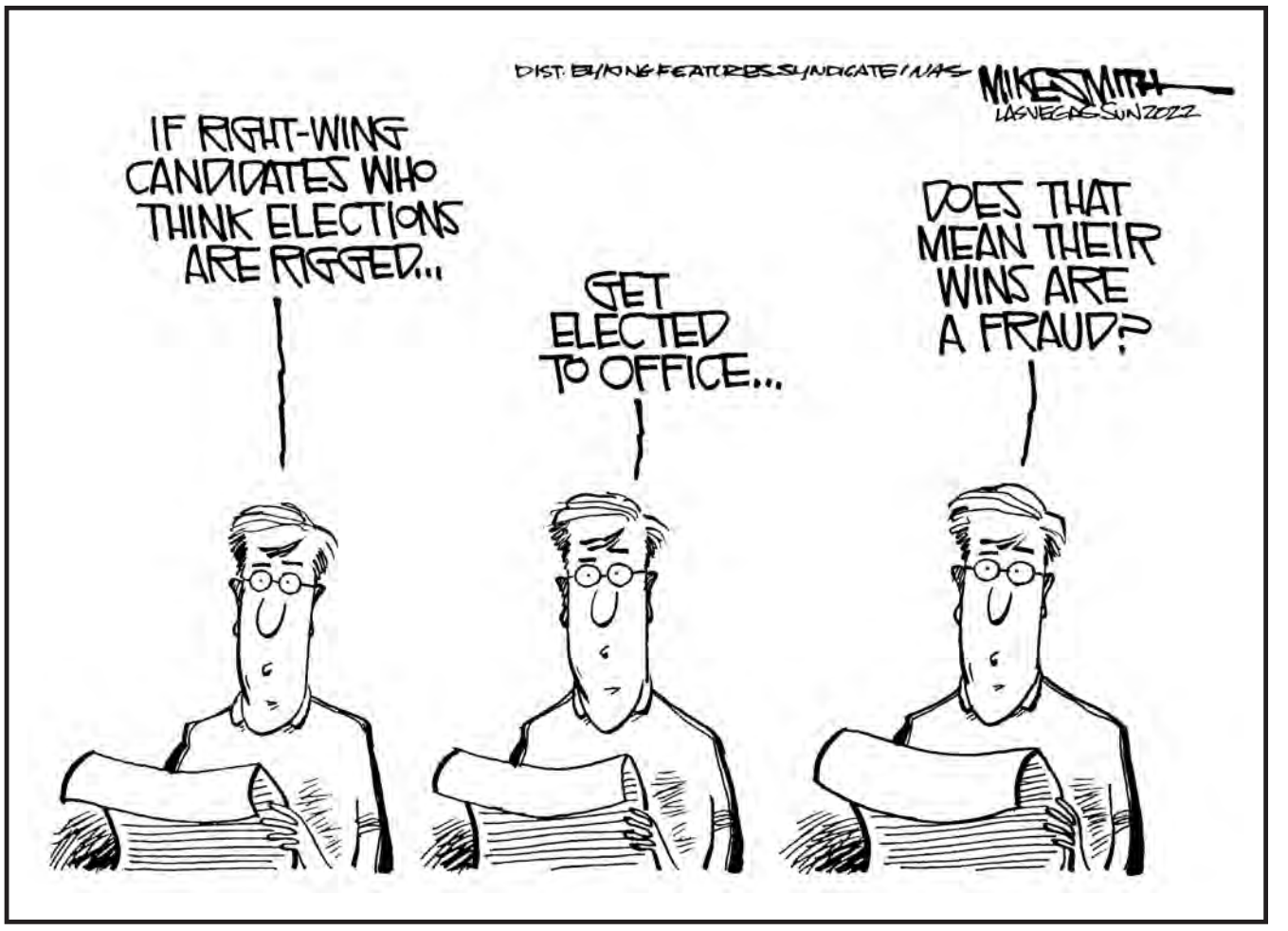
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE / IAS
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2022
IF RIGHT-WING CANDIDATES WHO THINK ELECTIONS ARE RIGGED...
GET ELECTED TO OFFICE...
DOES THAT MEAN THEIR WINS ARE A FRAUD?

EDITORIAL

A half a century after Nixon's Watergate shook democracy, Trump has trumped him

Fifty years ago Friday, burglars broke into the Watergate Hotel in Washington, the first chapter of a story that would transform American politics. The anniversary comes as Congress investigates the greatest constitutional crisis since then. Just as Watergate-era leaders instituted important reforms to address the weaknesses of the system that the scandal exposed, so today's leaders must ensure that a repeat of the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol—on democracy itself—cannot happen.

In the half-century since operatives connected to Richard Nixon's reelection campaign broke into the Democratic National Committee office at the Watergate to bug phones and steal documents, what followed—finally culminating in Nixon's resignation, more than two years later—has become the very definition of things gone wrong, with "gate" now the operative suffix attached to every new scandal, even abroad.

But that defining story of betrayal of the American people by their top leader pales next to what former President Donald Trump did before, during and after Jan. 6.

Nixon covered up crimes by underlings who sought to ensure his reelection, but Trump personally spread calculated lies to undermine Americans' faith in the electoral process itself. Nixon and Trump both elevated administration cronies they hoped would be more pliable to their corruption, but only Trump personally reached outside his administration to specifically demand corruption from other Republicans. ("I just want to find 11,780 votes," he told Georgia's secretary of state.)

Watergate involved no body count. But multiple Americans, including police officers, died from Trump's Jan. 6 melee.

Nixon's crimes spotlighted the need for reforms that yielded the codification of ethical standards, limits on the influence of money in campaigns and more fiscal transparency from candidates.

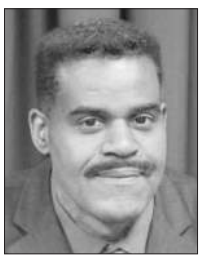
What Jan. 6 spotlights is the need to protect the electoral process from those who would undermine it from within. Most urgent is to update the Electoral Count Act, the vaguely worded 19th century law that governs the process by which Congress certifies states' electoral votes—also the process Trump's lawyers and ultimately his mob tried to corrupt so Trump could remain in power. A promising bipartisan rewrite effort is underway. A heavier lift, but an urgent one, is to prevent states from revamping their election laws to give partisans control over election results.

Perhaps the most important and disturbing distinction between Nixon and Trump is how the Republican estab-

See WATERGATE on Next Page

Is texting preventing the younger generation from developing competent writing skills?

By JERALD MCNAIR
Chicago Tribune



Jerald McNair is a school administrator at South Holland School District 151 in Illinois.

What is the difference between writing and texting? If you were to pose that question to youths from Generation Alpha—born starting in 2010—many of them may be hard-pressed to answer. Members of younger generations, including Gen Z, have grown up with cellphones as part of their everyday attire.

It is estimated that more than half of American children own a smartphone by the age of 11, according to a survey conducted by Common Sense Media. By the time they turn 8, about 1 in 5 have their own cellphone.

The wide use and ownership of these devices mean that youths are communicating more. While educators will tell you that allowing children to dialogue and engage at different levels helps their language skills, the type of written communication conducted on mobile devices has the tendency of being more of a hindrance than a benefit to our youths.

Texting is its own language. Online tech dictionary Webopedia lists nearly 1,700 common abbreviations and acronyms used in texting. For members of Generation Alpha, who are at the beginning stages of language development, developing formal writing skills while using text talk creates challenges.

Teachers have explained to me how often they have to correct basic words in their students' writing because far too many of them use text language in place of formal English. This may seem inconsequential; these youths are many years away from entering the labor force. But if steps are not taken to address this problem, it could present a challenge for our labor force and our economy. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, written communication is a soft skill that is among the skills viewed as fundamental to an employee doing a job effectively. Companies identify writing as one of the essential skills for success in 21st century workers.

An unskilled labor force hurts productivity and compromises an individual's employment opportunities, which ultimately hurt the economy.

Underdeveloped or poor writing skills may also hinder our youths in effectively communicating their emotions so that adults can understand them. We see the implications of this in the tendency of far too many of our youths expressing themselves through violent acts. Every day, about 360 teens are treated in emergency departments for assault injuries, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2020, suicide was the second leading cause of death for teens 10 to 14.

Do educators and parents miss some of the warning signs because they don't understand the language that many of our youths are using?

Generation Alpha poses an interesting dilemma—and opportunity—for us all. They are the youngest generation to experience the pandemic that has killed more than 1 million Americans. How it will affect them mentally and emotionally in the long run is still to be determined. So far, data from the CDC shows that it has increased their level of anxiety and depression related to, among other things, the shift from in-person learning to virtual education. Arguably, this has elevated the importance of technology and the devices at their fingertips. Getting them to put down their devices and engage in conversations is a challenge. But there is an opportunity to shape their mindset because they are young and still impressionable.

Doing so requires putting limits on cellphone use, engaging with them in more face-to-face communication and having them use that time away from their devices to use more formal language skills, both orally and written. Restricting texting to a certain level could help as they develop formal language skills.

Texting is here to stay. What can't become our new normal is allowing our youths to supplant formal language skills with ever-evolving faddish language.

The youngest members of our nation have seen and experienced

See TEXTING on Next Page

The Kamala Harris problem

By RICH LOWRY
(c) 2022 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The media taboo against talking about Joe Biden's age and the obstacle it presents to his running again in 2024 is finally off.

Which should put a lantern on another looming problem for the Democrats—waiting in the wings is a deeply unpopular officeholder, who makes Biden look like a prospective electoral juggernaut by comparison.

Democrats can be forgiven for considering the possibility of only Kamala Harris standing between them and a return of Donald Trump and telling themselves, "Well, maybe 80 is the new 75," or, "Biden's always been gaffe-prone, so what's a few more gaffes between friends?" or, "Biden campaigned from a basement in 2020—surely, he can campaign from some similarly secluded and safe space in 2024."

Harris is the single best argument for Democrats trying to prop up Biden no matter what. She has been a disaster as vice president, even as she's done nothing particularly noteworthy either good or bad. She's simply a political black hole, whose abysmal ratings reflect not just Biden's troubles but her own profound, inherent flaws as a political figure.

Kamala Harris has the authenticity of Hillary Clinton, the charm of Al Gore, and the common touch of Adlai Stevenson.

She could have been engineered in a lab as a conviction-less opportunist lacking basic political horse sense—and she more or less was. She came up in a California where the dominance of TV ads makes retail politicking all but unnecessary, and internal Democratic politics is largely based on identity politics. Compared to her, Biden really is Middle Class Joe. The contrast with Chuck Schumer, another Democratic leader from a deep blue state, is instructive—Schumer had a tough statewide race against a Republican within memory and is aware that not all voters are extremely online "woke" progressives.

Harris could have run as an ideologically interesting, tough-minded former prosecutor in the 2020 Democratic nomination fight—a little like Eric Adams in the New York City mayoral primaries last year. Instead, she got sucked into the idea that the winning lane would be a couple of ticks to the right of Bernie Sanders. She co-sponsored his "Medicare for All" proposal, before making a confusing hash of her position when she realized the political implausibility of the plan.

She seemed defensive about her record as a prosecutor, which came under withering assault from Rep. Tulsi Gabbard from the left.

Her signature moment—attacking Joe Biden for his opposition to busing based on her own experience getting bused—didn't pay the expected dividends because of its self-evident calculation.

Harris is a politician who always seems to be reading stage directions out loud. Her laugh, a target of critics, usually sounds forced and highly deliberate, at times bordering on inappropriate affect. It's a valuable political skill to seem at ease even when reaching for the brass ring at the highest level of American politics. Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama all had this ability. Harris has shown no indication that she has it or will develop it.

Biden has done her no favors with her assignments as vice president. Given the foolhardiness of the underlying Biden policies, there was no realistic way she was going to diminish migration at the Southern border. Nor was she going to do anything to get a voting rights bill passed. That said, Harris hasn't mastered any particular issue area and gives the impression of seeking tableaus that will lend to her gravitas without ever succeeding.

On top of all this, she hasn't managed to secure a close, trusted relationship with the president.

Any rational observer could have predicted that Biden's VP pick was going to be particularly sensitive given that, as de Gaulle famously said, "Old age is a shipwreck." Instead, Biden played identity politics by choosing Harris, and it's understandable now that some Democrats would like, against all evidence, to bank everything on Biden's youthful vigor.

Why we should all celebrate Juneteenth

By JAZMIN KREIMER
Progressive Perspectives

Jazmin Kreimer is the grant partnerships associate at More in Common and an attorney, who is passionate about civil rights and human rights issues. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Juneteenth is a day when generations of Black Americans have come together to celebrate freedom from slavery. It's a day that, until recently, was not widely acknowledged outside of some Black communities.

Even though President Joe Biden signed into law a bill that made Juneteenth a federal holiday in 2021, too many Americans are still unfamiliar with the day or its significance. It's time for that to change.

Amid the pandemic, the struggle to confront the realities of racism in the United States, a series of mass shootings and the continued fallout from the 2020 election, Juneteenth is an occasion for everyone in the United States to come together, enjoy the company of our family, friends and neighbors, and gather around the grill.

Roughly seven in 10 Americans believe that it's important to teach the history of racism in our country, including the history of their own racial groups and others. Juneteenth provides a powerful opportunity to learn about our shared past in a way that celebrates progress while recognizing ongoing challenges.

I never learned about Juneteenth in school. Even though part of my family is from Texas, where most slaves weren't freed until Union troops arrived in Galveston on June 19, 1865, I grew up knowing little more than that my father was born on a day we called "Juneteenth." It wasn't until I was an adult that I came to understand what that meant.

This significant event should not be hidden in history. And now that Juneteenth is nationally recognized, we have a responsibility to learn how to talk about and celebrate this holiday more broadly.

We also have a responsibility to ensure that our country's polarization does not take away from Juneteenth. Currently, Americans feel more positively toward July 4, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Jr. Day than they do toward Juneteenth. This largely falls along party lines, with Democrats feeling significantly more positive than Republicans.

But research from our organization More in Common, which will be published soon, shows that freedom and equality are values that Americans associate closely with our national identity. If July 4 celebrates our independence as a nation, and Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved Americans, these two holidays can represent a twin celebration of freedom that truly embodies the value that Americans hold highest: freedom for all.

Some Americans feel unsure that Juneteenth is meant for them and are uncertain of how to celebrate it. In our recent study, we found that while seven in 10 Black Americans view Juneteenth as somewhat or very personally significant, that figure was less than one-half for Hispanic Americans, and less than one-third for white and Asian Americans. This divide is likely due to the fact that, for many years, Juneteenth was a holiday primarily celebrated by Black people like my nana.

When I asked my nana about her experience as a young girl in Dallas, she said she would dress up and gather with family and friends to barbecue, drink red soda and celebrate perseverance, progress and freedom, even in the face of continuing oppression. But Juneteenth's long history in Black communities isn't a barrier to a wider celebration.

Black American history, after all, is U.S. history—and Juneteenth, in particular, represents an ongoing journey of a young country struggling to live up to its ideals.

It is our duty to provide Americans with the resources to learn this history. And if we can learn from each other while celebrating with barbecue and red soda in the process, then all the better.

WATERGATE

From Page 8

lishment reacted then and now. Congressional Republicans in Nixon's time did circle the wagons at first but ultimately joined Democrats in forcing Nixon from office and working to reform the systems he corrupted.

Today, the Republican wagons are still circled around Trump, with most leading Republicans either refusing to forcefully denounce his attempted coup and continued lies or actively promoting them. In that sense, the scandal still unfolding today deserves the historic distinction: worse than Watergate.

© 2022 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

TEXTING

From Page 8

things we never thought possible. How we help them navigate through these unprecedented times? First, by keeping communication open and readily embracing dialogue. Allowing Generation Alpha too much texting time threatens that and hurts us all.

Our future generations need us to make hard decisions for them. They are depending on us to get this right.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks, CNMI, for Juneteenth

Thanks, CNMI, for all the support and appreciation for the former slaves being finally free! As the story goes, they (slave owners and other whites) didn't want slaves to know they were free so it took two-and-a-half years for all the slaves to be freed on June 19, 1865. Some African-Americans still have to pinch themselves to believe that the former slaves now have a national holiday. I'm sure the slaves never dreamed they would one day be honored and recognized by our great nation but somehow it was really meant to be as part of our evolution as humans on Planet Earth.

Our entire world is constantly in an evolutionary state that has driven mankind to be better humans and stewards of our planet. We are merely stewards of the Earth that belongs to no-man, as Ben Lam Lam said at the Juneteenth celebration: "We are all just passing through on our way to a higher plain of existence." Juneteenth in only two years has become a "world celebration," taking place even in other nations in appreciation of the Africans and their struggles to attain freedom.

Being a product of the Civil Rights movement, I can't help but do all I can to push the evolution of Americans everywhere to promote the simple equation for attaining the American dream of "living long and prospering," which is "freedom + equality = the American dream." All people of color are now facing a real and dangerous threat in the U.S. mainland, with white supremacy on the rise with new voting laws, gerrymandered districts, and even mass shootings in churches and schools. There are still people against Juneteenth in the U.S. mainland and in the CNMI as I notice one person had even clicked "funny" on the Juneteenth article and where there is one, there are more you-know-what. But mankind is evolving one person at a time and one-day, as my MaDear might say, "We won't have to worry about that breed of mankind anymore."

But just like in the American mainland, we as a people still have work to do in the CNMI to make sure that every American is equal and has a genuine chance to live out the American dream on Saipan, Tinian, and Luta. Too many of our youth and even adults have virtually instituted the fact that you must move to the mainland to live the American dream. Our social migration pattern and the social stratification is living proof enough that we as a people still have work to do. There is a saying that sometimes you must be careful what you ask for as you just might get it and won't like what you get. So my advice to all in the CNMI is to push the envelope of equality to include everyone in the CNMI because we as a people will all find prosperity together or continue to flounder in the treacherous sea of inequality, which is where we are today.

Reiterating my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who helped to make our Juneteenth celebration and Father's Day a great afternoon at the beach, with a special thanks to my wife as we also celebrated our 37 years on that day also, which was our first date on Juneteenth of 1985. May God bless you all and God speed for the CNMI to truly make every American equal. That will surely put the CNMI on a better course to find prosperity for us all! "I have a dream" for us all in the CNMI that we will one day live up to our nation's creed that all men are created equal!

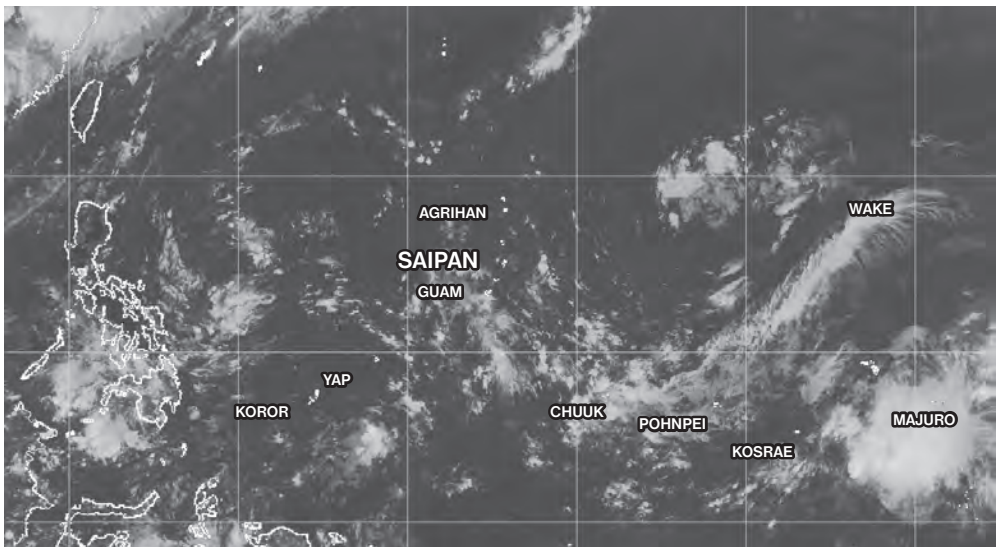
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy.	Scattered showers. Partly sunny.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.	Mostly sunny.
87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	87° 77°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:07 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery and the latest doppler Radar loop shows showers and thunderstorms continue to affect all of the Marianas from time to time. Some warming cloud tops and decreasing precipitation in radar just east of Guam and Rota is occurring, with visible imagery showing new convection developing a little further east. The water at Tanapag is 85 degrees, with Ritidian and Ipan showing 86 degrees. The buoys also show seas near 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	83° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° /79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:09 AM	12:18 PM	-
Wednesday	12:47 AM	1:09 PM	-
Thursday	1:24 AM	1:59 PM	-
Friday	2:00 AM	2:48 PM	-
Saturday	2:38 AM	3:38 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	97° / 76°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	78° / 53°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	90° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Miami	Showers	86° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	79° / 73°
Paris	Light Rain	78° / 62°
Busan	Light Rain	79° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	92° / 68°
Salem	Sunny	90° / 64°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	71° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	94° / 70°
Tokyo	Cloudy	84° / 71°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:00 AM	High Tide	2.12
8:20 AM	Low Tide	1.08
1:06 PM	High Tide	1.63
7:42 PM	Low Tide	0.50

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Buttigieg: US may act against airlines on consumers' behalf

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

The day after Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg met with airline leaders to quiz them about widespread flight disruptions, his own flight was canceled and he wound up driving from Washington to New York.

"That is happening to a lot of people, and that is exactly why we are paying close attention here to what can be done and how to make sure that the airlines are delivering," Buttigieg told The Associated Press in an interview Saturday.

Buttigieg

Buttigieg said he is pushing the airlines to stress-test their summer schedules to ensure they can operate all their planned flights with the employees they have, and to add customer-service workers. That could put pressure on airlines to make additional cuts in their summer schedules.

Buttigieg said his department could take enforcement actions against airlines that fail to live up to consumer-protection standards. But first, he said, he wants to see whether there are major flight disruptions over the July Fourth holiday weekend and the rest of the summer.

Enforcement actions can results in fines, although they tend to be small. Air Canada agreed to pay a $2 million fine last year over slow refunds.

During Thursday's virtual meeting, airline executives described steps they are taking to avoid a repeat of the Memorial Day weekend, when about 2,800 flights were canceled. "Now we're going to see how those steps measure up," Buttigieg said.

Travel is back. On Friday, more than 2.4 million people passed through security checkpoints at U.S. airports, coming within about 12,500 of breaking the pandemic-era high recorded on the Sunday after Thanksgiving last year.

The record surely would have been broken had airlines not canceled 1,400 flights, many of them because thunderstorms hit parts of the East Coast. A day earlier, airlines scrubbed more than 1,700 flights, according to tracking service FlightAware.

Weather is always a wild card when it comes to flying in summer, but airlines have also acknowledged staffing shortages as travel roared back faster than expected from pandemic lows. Airlines are scrambling to hire pilots and other workers to replace employees whom they encouraged to quit after the pandemic hit.

It takes months to hire and train a pilot to meet federal safety standards, but the Transportation Department sees no reason the airlines cannot immediately add customer-service representatives to help passengers rebook if their flight is canceled.

The government has its own staffing challenges.

COURT REJECTS FINDING THAT WEED KILLER SAFE AP
Containers of Roundup are displayed on a store shelf in San Francisco, on Feb. 24, 2019. A federal appeals court has rejected a Trump administration finding that glyphosate, the active ingredient in the weed killer Roundup, does not pose a serious health risk and is "not likely" to cause cancer in humans.

SpaceX reported to fire employees critical Musk

HAWTHORNE, Calif. (AP)—SpaceX, the rocket ship company run by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, has fired several employees involved in an open letter that blasted the colorful billionaire for his behavior, according to media reports.

The reports published Friday cited an email from Gwynne Shotwell, SpaceX's president, saying the company had terminated employees who put together and circulated the letter. The letter writers denounced Musk for actions that they said are a "frequent source of distraction and embarrassment for us, particularly in recent weeks."

The New York Times was the first outlet to report the purge, based on information from three employees familiar with the situation. The employees were not named.

It's unclear how many SpaceX workers lost their jobs, but Shotwell left no doubt that the company believed they had crossed an unacceptable line.

"The letter, solicitations and general process made employees feel uncomfortable, intimidated and bullied, and/or angry because the letter pressured them to sign onto something that did not reflect their views," Shotwell wrote in her email, according to the Times . ""We have too much critical work to accomplish and no need for this kind of overreaching activism."

The firings occurred Thursday—the same day Musk addressed Twitter employees for the first time about his $44 billion deal to add that social media service to his business empire. The purchase is in limbo while Musk tries to determine whether Twitter has been concealing the number of fake accounts on its platform.

Yellen: Recession not inevitable, gas tax holiday being weighed

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. (AP)—Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that she expects the U.S. economy to slow in the months ahead, but that a recession is not inevitable.

Yellen

Yellen offered a dose of optimism even as economists grow increasingly worried about a recession fueled by skyrocketing inflation and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

She also expressed an openness, during an interview on ABC's "This Week," to a federal gas tax holiday to help give motorists some relief at the pump. Several lawmakers have floated the idea as the average price of gasoline hovers around $5 per gallon; the tax is 18.4 cents per gallon.

"That's an idea that's certainly worth considering," Yellen said when asked if the administration is weighing it. She added that President Joe Biden wants "to do anything he possibly can to help consumers." And Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said "it's one of the tools," but told CNN's "State of the Union" that "part of the challenge with the gas tax, of course, is that it funds the roads."

Yellen said overall consumer spending in the United States remains strong, while noting that spending patterns are changing, given the impact of rising food and energy prices. Yellen said household savings during the coronavirus pandemic will help sustain spending.

The national saving rate has fallen to about 6%, below pre-pandemic levels, after reaching 16.6% in 2020, the highest on record dating to 1948, and 12.7% in 2021.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bitcoin inches up above psychological threshold of $20,000

OAKLAND, California (AP)—The price of a bitcoin inched above $20,000 on Sunday after the broader crypto selloff dragged it below the significant psychological threshold a day earlier. The price of the world's most popular cryptocurrency was $20,129.70 as of Sunday afternoon. On Saturday, bitcoin had plunged as much as 9.7% to less than $18,600 by late afternoon on the East Coast, according to the cryptocurrency news site CoinDesk. At some points during Saturday, it was below $18,000. On Sunday, though, the volatile cryptocurrency climbed higher, though it is still more than 70% below its November 2020 all-time high of nearly $69,000. Many in the industry had believed it would not fall under $20,000 again. Ethereum, another widely followed cryptocurrency that has been sliding in recent weeks, took a similar tumble Saturday to well below $1,000 but also regained ground Sunday, adding nearly 11% to $1,101.81.

Warren Buffett's final charity lunch draws record $19M bid

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—An anonymous bidder has shelled out a record $19 million for a private lunch with billionaire Warren Buffet at a steakhouse in New York City. The meal with the Berkshire Hathaway CEO was offered on an eBay auction to benefit the San-Francisco-based charity GLIDE, which helps homeless people and those in poverty. The winner can bring up to seven guests. Buffett has raised $53 million for GLIDE since the auction began in 2000. The charity earned the philanthropist billionaire's support when his first wife, Susie, introduced him to it after she started volunteering there. She died in 2004. This year's event will be the first private lunch offered with the 91-year-old billionaire since the previous record-setting bid of $4.5 million by cryptocurrency entrepreneur Justin Sun in 2019. The past two auctions were called off due to COVID-19 concerns and Buffett has said this will be the last.

Maryland Apple workers face hurdles after vote to unionize

TOWSON, Md. (AP)—The historic vote by employees of a Maryland Apple store to unionize—a first for the technology giant—is a significant step in a lengthy process that labor experts say is heavily stacked against workers in favor of their employers. Apple store employees in a Baltimore suburb voted to unionize by a nearly 2-to-1 margin Saturday, joining a growing push across U.S. retail, service and tech industries to organize for greater workplace protections. It's not yet clear whether the recent wave of unionizations represent a broader shift in U.S. labor. But experts say the current shortage of workers for hourly and low-wage jobs means employees have more power than they had historically, especially when unemployment is low. "It's not that big a deal to lose one of these jobs because you can get another crummy job," said Ruth Milkman, labor scholar at the City University of New York.

Starbucks head of North America business leaving company

SEATTLE (AP)—Rossann Williams, Starbucks' North America president who's been a prominent figure in the company's push against worker unionization, is leaving the company after 17 years. In a letter sent to Starbucks employees, whom the company calls "partners," chief operating officer John Culver said the decision "was not taken lightly" and added that Williams was offered another job at the company, which she declined. Sara Trilling, meanwhile, was promoted to executive vice president and president of Starbucks North America. Trilling is a 20-year veteran of Starbucks and most recently served as senior vice president and president of Starbucks Asia Pacific in Hong Kong. Starbucks has been among the latest wave of prominent companies seeing unionization efforts among their hourly workers. In December, a Starbucks store in Buffalo became the first to unionize at one of the coffee retailer's company-owned U.S. stores. At least 150 of Starbucks' 9,000 company-run U.S. stores have voted to unionize since then, according to the National Labor Relations Board, and at least 10 stores have rejected the union.

Nation

Jan. 6 committee setting its sights on Pence, Ginni Thomas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of the House committee investigating the Capitol riot said Sunday they may subpoena former Vice President Mike Pence and are waiting to hear from Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, about her role in the illegal plot to overturn the 2020 election.

Lawmakers indicated they will release more evidence about Donald Trump's alleged effort to defraud supporters by fundraising off false claims of a stolen presidential election. They also pledged to provide pertinent material to the Justice Department by the end of the month for its criminal investigation. The department complained in a letter last week that the committee was complicating its investigation by not sharing transcripts from its 1,000 interviews.

"We're not taking anything off the table in terms of witnesses who have not yet testified," said Rep. Adam Schiff, who described a Pence subpoena as "certainly a possibility."

"We would still, I think, like to have several high-profile people come before our committee," said Schiff, D-Calif.

For example, the committee has been able to document most of Trump's end of his call to Pence on the morning of the insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, when the then-president made his final plea for Pence to stop the certification of Joe Biden's victory when Pence presided over the Electoral College count in Congress. Members have not yet documented directly what Pence said in response.

The committee chairman, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., recently said the committee was still "engaging" with Pence's lawyers, while also suggesting it may not be necessary for him to appear because of testimony from many of Pence's closest aides.

Committee members also hope to learn more about Ginni Thomas' own effort to keep Trump in office and the potential conflicts of interest posed on her husband as a result on Jan. 6 cases that come before the Supreme Court.

Republican state Rep. Rusty Bowers, the Arizona House speaker, is scheduled to testify at the committee's hearing Tuesday focusing on state officials who were contacted by Trump and the White House as Trump tried to overturn the results. Bowers is likely to be asked about emails he received from Thomas urging him and other state officials to set aside Biden's 2020 win and choose their own set of electors.

"We have questions for her and we may have questions for him as well," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.

Thomas has publicly indicated that she "can't wait" to appear before the committee after receiving their request by letter last week.

3 people, 2 dogs jump overboard as yacht burns and sinks

AP

This image provided by New Hampshire State Police shows a yacht burning on the Piscataqua River in New Castle, N.H., Saturday, June 18, 2022.

NEW CASTLE, N.H. (AP)—A 70-foot yacht burned and sank in New Hampshire, sending three people to the hospital, authorities said.

The vessel, the Elusive, was on the Piscataqua River heading toward a marina in New Castle around 4 p.m. Saturday when a passenger noticed black smoke below deck, the New Hampshire Department of Safety said in a statement.

The Coast Guard and the New Hampshire State Police Marine Patrol posted photos of the flames and thick black smoke pouring from the vessel.

Three passengers, as well as two dogs, jumped overboard as the boat became engulfed in flames. They were rescued by other boats.

The passengers, identified as Arthur Watson, 67, and Diane Watson, 57, both of New Canaan, Connecticut, and Jarrod Tubbs, 33, of Jupiter, Florida, were taken to a hospital, treated and released.

Despite efforts to save the yacht, it drifted into Maine waters and eventually sank about two hours after the 911 initial call, authorities said.

The cause of the fire is being investigated.

Yellowstone aims for quick opening

GARDINER, Mont. (AP)—Most of Yellowstone National Park should re-open within the next two weeks—much faster than originally expected after record floods pounded the Yellowstone region last week and knocked out major roads, federal officials said Sunday.

Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly said the world-renowned park will be able to accommodate fewer visitors for the time being, and it will take more time to restore road connections with some southern Montana communities.

Park officials said Sunday they'll use $50 million in federal highway money to speed up road and bridge repairs. There's still no timetable for repairs to routes between the park and areas of Montana where the recovery is expected to stretch for months.

Yellowstone will partially reopen at 8 a.m. Wednesday, more than a week after more than 10,000 visitors were forced out of the park when the Yellowstone and other rivers went over their banks after being swelled by melting snow and several inches of rainfall.

Only portions of the park that can be accessed along its "southern loop" of roads will be opened initially and access to the park's scenic backcountry will be for day hikers only.

Within two weeks officials plan to also open the northern loop, after previously declaring that it would likely stay closed through the summer season. The northern loop would give visitors access to popular attractions including Tower Fall and Mammoth Hot Springs. They'd still be barred from the Lamar Valley, which is famous for its prolific wildlife including bears, wolves and bison that can often be seen from the roadside.

"That would get 75 to 80% of the park back to working," National Park Service Director Charles "Chuck" Sams said Sunday during a visit to Yellowstone to gauge the flood's effects.

It will take much longer—possibly years—to fully restore two badly-damaged stretches of road that link the park with Gardiner to the north and Cooke City to the northeast.

ACROSS THE NATION

Arizona wildfire near Kitt Peak observatory 40% contained

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A lightning-caused wildfire that led to an evacuation of the Kitt Peak National Observatory southwest of Tucson is 40% contained, authorities said. More than 300 firefighters were working the wildfire Saturday. If all goes as planned, authorities said the blaze could be fully contained by next Sunday. The wind-whipped fire started June 11 on a remote ridge on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation, about 8 miles (13 kilometers) southeast of Kitt Peak. It had grown to 27.5 square miles (71 square kilometers) before rain fell on the area Saturday. The fire was about 30 square miles (78 square kilometers) by Sunday. Flames had reached Kitt Peak by Thursday, and officials evacuated a small community north of the mountain.

No updates on 4 inmates who escaped prison satellite camp

HOPEWELL, Va. (AP)—Authorities haven't released any updates about the search for four escaped inmates Sunday, a day after they were discovered missing from a federal prison's satellite camp in Virginia. Inmates Corey Branch, Tavares Lajuane Graham, Lamonte Rashawn Willis and Kareem Allen Shaw were discovered missing from the Federal Correctional Complex Petersburg's satellite camp in Hopewell, Virginia, around 1:45 a.m. Saturday, the Federal Bureau of Prisons said in a news release. The minimum security facility houses 185 male offenders, officials said. Officials did not release any details about how the inmates escaped. Officials didn't release any new information about the search Sunday. The U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies were notified and an internal investigation has been initiated, officials said.

2 men charged in fatal fireworks explosion that killed 4

BLACK JACK, Mo. (AP)—Two men were charged with murder in a house explosion near St. Louis that authorities say killed four people who were assembling fireworks in a garage. St. Louis County prosecutors say 37-year-old Terrell Cooks and 43-year-old Seneca Mahan made fireworks and directed younger people on how to load the canisters and attach a fuse for lighting. They would then sell the fireworks to others. Neither Cooks nor Mahan had a license to make or sell fireworks. Cooks and Mahan are each with three counts of second-degree murder and several other charges in Friday's explosion near the town of Black Jack. They were charged before a fourth victim died Saturday. The victims in the powerful blast that shook other homes and blew out neighbors' windows were identified as Travell Eason, 16; Christopher Jones, 17; Damario Cooks, 18; and William Jones, 21.

Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, 'doing fine' after punch

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, was punched in the city's Fourth Street Live entertainment district on Saturday night. Mayor Greg Fischer, a Democrat, is "doing fine," according to a tweet from the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department. The department released photos of a suspect they are trying to locate. Police in Kentucky's largest city said they will release more information as it becomes available.

Asia

Duterte's daughter takes oath as PH vice president

AP

Sara Duterte, the daughter of outgoing populist president of the Philippines, takes her oath as vice president during rites in her hometown in Davao city, southern Philippines, Sunday June 19, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing populist president of the Philippines, took her oath Sunday as vice president following a landslide electoral victory she clinched despite her father's human rights record that saw thousands of drug suspects gunned down.

The inauguration in their southern hometown of Davao, where she's the outgoing mayor, comes two weeks before she assumes office on June 30 as specified in the Philippine Constitution. President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Duterte's running mate, will take his oath in Manila on June 30.

"I'm not the best or the most intelligent person in the Philippines and the world but nobody can beat the toughness of my heart as a Filipino," Duterte, who wore a green traditional gown, said in a speech after she took her oath before a Supreme Court associate justice, her hand resting on a Bible held by her mother.

"The voice of 32.2 million Filipinos was loud and clear—with the message to serve our motherland," Duterte said, referring to the votes she got, to an applause from thousands of supporters.

Fondly called by supporters as "Inday Sara," the mother of three called for national unity and devotion to God and asked Filipinos to emulate the patriotism of the country's national hero Jose Rizal. She cited long-standing social ills facing Filipino children, including poverty, broken families, illegal drugs, bullying and online misinformation and asked parents to ingrain in them the values of integrity, discipline, respect for others and compassion.

President Rodrigo Duterte, 77, led the VIPs in the heavily guarded ceremony at a public square near city hall in the port city of Davao, where he had also served as a mayor starting in the late 1980s. His family, hailing from a modest middle-class background, built a formidable political dynasty in the restive southern region long troubled by communist and Muslim insurgencies and violent political rivalries.

Duterte's presidency has been marked by a brutal anti-drugs campaign that has left thousands of mostly petty suspects shot dead by police or vigilantes. The drug killings are being investigated by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity.

PH government lawyer shot dead in Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A government attorney for the Philippines was fatally shot in an Uber while visiting Philadelphia, officials said Sunday.

John Albert Laylo was heading to Philadelphia International Airport with his mother to board a flight and was stopped in the Uber at a red light near the University of Pennsylvania around 4:10 a.m. Saturday, officials said.

Several rounds were fired into the Uber from a black car behind it, police said. The black car then pulled up alongside the Uber and fired several more rounds into it, police said in a news release.

Laylo was shot in the back of the head and taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead Sunday, police said.

No one was arrested, and no weapon has been found, police said. Authorities did not offer a suspected motive or say whether Laylo, his mother or the Uber driver were intentionally targeted. Homicide detectives are investigating and are looking for surveillance video.

The consulate general of the Philippines said the victim was an attorney for its government, Philadelphia's KYW-TV reported.

It wasn't clear whether the Uber driver or Laylo's mother were injured, but the latter posted to Facebook on Sunday, indicating she had been hit by shrapnel and saying she had been on vacation with her son, whom she referred to as Jal and said was 35 years old.

"Never did I imagine or dream that ... the end of our vacation will be like this!" Leah Bustamante Laylo wrote in a post accompanied by snapshots of her and her son touring sites in New York, Washington and Philadelphia. "We travelled together and we are supposed to go home together! I will bring him home soon in a box!"

Philadelphia, along with other large U.S. cities, is experiencing a surge in gun violence. In one notable episode June 4, a gun melee in the South Street entertainment district, about 3 miles from the shooting that killed Laylo, left three people dead and several others injured.

World

AMID UNUSUAL HEAT WAVE

Spain, Germany battle wildfires

AP

Firefighters work in front of flames during a wildfire in the Sierra de la Culebra in the Zamora Provence on Saturday June 18, 2022.

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Firefighters in Spain and Germany struggled to contain wildfires on Sunday amid an unusual heat wave in Western Europe for this time of year.

The worst damage in Spain has been in the northwest province of Zamora, where over 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) have been consumed, regional authorities said, while German officials said that residents of three villages near Berlin were ordered to leave their homes because of an approaching wildfire Sunday.

Spanish authorities said that after three days of high temperatures, high winds and low humidity, some respite came with dropping temperatures Sunday morning. That allowed for about 650 firefighters supported by water-dumping aircraft to establish a perimeter around the fire that started in Zamora's Sierra de la Culebra. Authorities warned there was still danger that an unfavorable shift in weather could revive the blaze that caused the evacuation of 18 villages.

Spain has been on alert for an outbreak of intense wildfires as the country swelters under record temperatures at many points in the country for June. Experts link the abnormally hot period for Europe to climate change. Thermometers have risen above 40 C (104 F) in many Spanish cities throughout the week—temperatures usually expected in August.

A lack of rainfall this year combined with gusting winds have produced the conditions for the fires.

Authorities said that gusting winds of up 70 kph (43 mph) that changed course erratically, combined with temperatures near 40 C, made it very tough for crews.

"The fire was able to cross a reservoir some 500 meters wide and reach the other side, to give you an idea of the difficulties we faced," Juan Suárez-Quiñones, an official for Castilla y León region, told Spanish state television TVE.

The fire in Zamora was started by a strike from an electrical storm on Wednesday, authorities said. The spreading fire caused the high-speed train service from Madrid to Spain's northwest to be cut on Saturday. It was reestablished on Sunday morning.

Military firefighting units have been deployed in Zamora, Navarra and Lleida.

There have been no reports of lives lost, but the flames reached the outskirts of some villages both in Zamora and in Navarra. Videos shot by passengers in cars showed flames licking the sides of roads. In other villages, residents looked on in despair as black plumes rose from nearby hills.

Greek coast guard rescues 108 migrants; four missing

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek authorities said Sunday they have rescued 108 migrants from a sailboat that was found rudderless and leaking water in the Aegean Sea in near gale force winds.

The rescued migrants—63 men, 24 women and 21 children—have told authorities there four other people are missing.

Reports of a sailboat adrift off the uninhabited island of Delos reached the coast guard late Saturday. It dispatched three rescue vessels and a tugboat. Early Sunday morning, rescuers managed to tow the sailboat to an islet off the nearby island of Mykonos, authorities said. The migrants were safely transported to Mykonos. They told authorities that their boat had sailed from Turkey to an unknown destination.

None of the migrants on board were wearing a life vest, nor was there any life-saving equipment on board, authorities said.

"Once again, the coast guard saved lives that the ruthless trafficking networks have exposed to mortal danger without even the barest protection measures," Shipping and Island Policy Minister Ioannis Plakiotakis said.

Late Sunday afternoon, a sailboat with 56 migrants—28 men, 16 women and 12 women—ran aground at an inlet on the island of Rhodes, authorities said. The migrants, who are all well, made it to the shore on their own.

In unrelated migration cases in the neighboring country of North Macedonia, police said they discovered 71 migrants in two separate operations late Saturday and arrested three men suspected of human trafficking.

Police raided a home in the northern town of Kumanovo and found 44 Pakistanis and one person from India. Police arrested the homeowner, a 41-year-old identified only by his initials as U.F. The migrants are believed to have entered illegally from Greece and were waiting to be smuggled to Serbia on their way to unidentified EU countries. They have been transferred to a migrant reception center on the border with Serbia pending deportation.

Overdrive

How to afford summer road trips amid high gas prices

By SALLY FRENCH
NERDWALLET

A gasoline pump is shown at a gas station Friday, June 10, 2022, in Salt Lake City. AP

A summer road trip used to be a cost-effective, easy getaway. This year, soaring gas prices and expensive rental cars might make you think twice about hitting the road.

According to the American Automobile Association, a federation of motor clubs throughout North America, the average gas price was $4.60 per gallon nationally before Memorial Day weekend. Some experts believe the national average might even top $5 later in the summer.

Plus, rental car prices hit record highs during the pandemic, up 38.6% in February 2022 versus February 2020, according to a NerdWallet analysis of U.S. Consumer Price Index inflation data.

But those roadblocks don't necessarily mean you have to put the brakes on travel completely. You might just have to shift your road trip plans. Here's how.

Consider changing your destination

If you're open-minded about your vacation destination, consider driving through a region with below-average gas prices. On June 1, 10 states had average gas prices below $4.30 per gallon for regular grade gasoline, according to AAA data.

Those states, ranked from cheapest to most expensive, were:

1. Georgia.
2. Arkansas.
3. Kansas.
4. Mississippi.
5. Oklahoma.
6. Missouri.
7. Louisiana.
8. Nebraska.
9. South Carolina.
10. Texas.

Given how many of those states border each other, it'd be fairly easy to plan a road trip through the South or Midwest. You could start in St. Louis, and make the roughly four-hour drive on Interstate 70 across the state to Kansas City, Missouri. Make time for a pit stop in Columbia, which is a quintessential college town with the University of Missouri. Boonville is another great stop, where you can tour Warm Springs Ranch, home of the iconic Budweiser Clydesdales. (Walking tours start at $15 .) From Kansas City, it's about three hours on to Omaha, Nebraska, where you can try the allegedly original Reuben sandwich.

Be strategic about rental cars

If you're renting a car, understand that rental car prices can vary dramatically depending on the rental company, whether you're renting from an airport location versus downtown, and how far in advance you book.

Speaking of renting a car, this might be the year you rent an electric vehicle. The EV may have a more expensive rental price, but it could be cheaper than renting a gas-powered car and filling its tank. AAA has a helpful gas calculator tool that factors in the type of car and where you're driving to help you see the trade-offs.

Hotel and vacation rental companies also are making it easier to search for accommodations that offer electric vehicle charging. More hotels are promoting electric vehicle charging as a hotel perk, right alongside traditional amenities like pools and breakfast buffets. Many hotels even allow you to charge your car at no cost.

If rental car prices are brutally high, consider booking with alternative rental car companies like Turo or Getaround, which can be cheaper than a major car rental company. Many of these companies are relatively new and allow you to book cars directly from the owners, functioning as an "Airbnb for cars."

For example, the cost of a weeklong car rental from San Francisco International Airport during the first week of July for a standard, gas-powered car like a Volkswagen Jetta would average about $640 . Head to peer-to-peer car-sharing site Turo, and there are more than a dozen Teslas available to book in San Francisco on the same dates for less than $800.

If you filled the Jetta's roughly 13-gallon gas tank twice at $6 a gallon (which isn't unheard of in some states like California), you'd pay more than $150 in gas. That cost plus the rental would have you paying roughly the same amount as booking the Tesla.

With so many variables, it pays to shop around before you make reservations.

Know where to find the cheapest gas

If driving a gas-powered car is non-negotiable, master the art of saving money on gas. Download apps like GasBuddy, which track local gas prices and can help guide you to the cheapest station near you. It also helps to drive more efficiently. Adjusting how you speed up, brake or use cruise control can have an impact on your gas usage.

And if all else fails and you're stuck with a gargantuan gas bill, at least earn rewards for your spending through a rewards credit card. The best gas credit cards can typically net at least 3% back in rewards for your gas station spending.

How to save fuel on hot days

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
While you might want to seek relief in the air conditioning, blasting it in your car can use up gas just as prices at the pump soar.

By SIMONE JASPER
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Hot temperatures are scorching much of the United States, breaking records ahead of the official start of summer.

And while you might want to seek relief in the air conditioning, blasting it in your car can use up gas just as prices at the pump soar.

"If you're trying to save mileage, you're giving up a little bit of comfort," Steve Reinarts, automotive instructor at Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis, told KARE.

Here's what experts say about conserving fuel while getting a break from the heat.

How could air conditioning impact fill-ups?

Using air conditioning can impact your car's fuel economy, which refers to the distance you can travel before having to fill up again, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

"Running your car's air conditioning is the main contributor to reduced fuel economy in hot weather," the department said on its website. "Its effect depends on a number of factors, such as the outside temperature, humidity, and intensity of the sun. Under very hot conditions, AC use can reduce a conventional vehicle's fuel economy by more than 25%, particularly on short trips."

Though the topic has been debated, experts say riding with open windows also has the potential to reduce fuel economy.

"Rolling down your windows instead of using AC causes aerodynamic drag," AAA told McClatchy News in a June 15 email. "In many cases, this increase in drag at highway speeds negates any savings on engine load from not using AC."

How can you conserve gas?

Cutting back on air conditioning can help to conserve gas, but that might not be the best option when you hit the road on a hot day. This week, heat alerts and record high temperatures have stretched across the United States.

Experts urge drivers seeking lower costs to recognize when it makes the most sense to open the windows for relief.

"At lower speeds driving around town, rolling down the windows is the most efficient choice," the energy department wrote in a 2015 online post. "However, because having the windows down increases wind resistance, it's not very efficient at highway speeds. When rolling down the freeway, it's best to turn on the air conditioning at a temperature that keeps you comfortable, but not cold."

Here are some other tips from experts:

- Park your car in the shade or use a windshield shade to block out the sun
- Drive with the windows down to let hot air escape before turning on the air conditioning
- Reduce the amount of time you spend idling with the air conditioning on
- Consider getting a car that's a lighter color or has tinted windows

While those fuel economy suggestions focus on how to stay cool when temperatures climb, it's possible to take steps toward efficiency throughout the year. Some tips include staying up to date on vehicle maintenance, using cruise control and mapping out trips to avoid traffic, McClatchy News reported.

Drivers might be looking to conserve fuel as they face higher prices at the pumps following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

As of June 16, the national average for a gallon of regular gas was $5.009, just shy of the all-time high of $5.016 reported two days earlier. The prices are up almost $2 per gallon compared with this time last year, according to AAA.

Ferrari to make 80% hybrid and full-electric range by 2030

MILAN (AP)—Italian luxury sportscar maker Ferrari on Thursday outlined an electrification strategy that calls for 40% full-electric vehicles and 40% hybrid models by 2030.

CEO Benedetto Vigna confirmed that the first electric car will be presented in 2025, with the first deliveries the following year.

Now, just four Ferrari models, or 20% of the range, are hybrid cars. Its first hybrid model was the limited edition La Ferrari launched in 2013, capitalizing on Formula 1 technology.

Vigna, a former technology entrepreneur who joined Ferrari as CEO nine months ago, said the electrification strategy is "highly relevant."

AP
The new Ferrari, named LaFerrari, is presented during the first media day of the 83rd Geneva International Motor Show, Switzerland, March 5, 2013.

"Not only it is required by emissions regulations, but most importantly, we believe we can use the electric engine to enhance the performance of our cars, as we did already with our hybrid Ferrari," he said at an analyst presentation.

As Ferrari expands its model range, the car company based in the northern Italian city of Maranello said it would unveil the long-awaited Purosangue utility vehicle in September. Bearing the Italian name for thoroughbred, the Purosangue will represent no more than 20% of vehicles produced during its cycle.

In all, Ferrari plans to launch 15 new models from 2023 to 2026, including a new high-performance supercar.

Life & Style

Russian journalist sells Nobel Prize for Ukrainian children

NEW YORK (AP)—What's the price of peace?

That question could be partially answered Monday night when Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov auctions off his Nobel Peace Prize medal. The proceeds will go directly to UNICEF in its efforts to help children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Muratov, awarded the gold medal in October 2021, helped found the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta and was the publication's editor-in-chief when it shut down in March amid the Kremlin's clampdown on journalists and public dissent in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

AP

Bidder Ole Bjorn Fausa, of Norway, holds the 1936 Nobel Peace Prize medal in Baltimore, March 27, 2014, the second Nobel Peace Prize ever to come to auction.

It was Muratov's idea to auction off his prize, having already announced he was donating the accompanying $500,000 cash award to charity. The idea of the donation, he said, "is to give the children refugees a chance for a future."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Muratov said he was particularly concerned about children who have been orphaned because of the conflict in Ukraine.

"We want to return their future," he said.

He added that it's important international sanctions levied against Russia do not prevent humanitarian aid, such as medicine for rare diseases and bone marrow transplants, from reaching those in need.

"It has to become a beginning of a flash mob as an example to follow so people auction their valuable possessions to help Ukrainians," Muratov said in a video released by Heritage Auctions, which is handling the sale but not taking any share of the proceeds.

Muratov shared the Nobel Peace Prize last year with journalist Maria Ressa of the Philippines.

The two journalists, who each received their own medals, were honored for their battles to preserve free speech in their respective countries, despite coming under attack by harassment, their governments and even death threats.

Muratov has been highly critical of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and the war launched in February that has caused nearly 5 million Ukrainians to flee to other countries for safety, creating the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II.

Independent journalists in Russia have come under scrutiny by the Kremlin, if not outright targets of the government. Since Putin came into power more than two decades ago, nearly two dozen journalists have been killed, including at least four who had worked for Muratov's newspaper.

In April, Muratov said he was attacked with red paint while aboard a Russian train.

Muratov left Russia for Western Europe on Thursday to begin his trip to New York City, where live bidding will begin Monday afternoon.

Online bids began June 1 to coincide with the International Children's Day observance. Monday's live bidding falls on World Refugee Day.

As of early Monday morning, the high bid was $550,000. The purchase price is expected to spiral upward, possibly into the millions.

Pianist, 18, from South Korea wins Van Cliburn competition

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—An 18-year-old from South Korea has won the 16th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, one of the top showcases for the world's best pianists.

The competition held in Fort Worth, Texas, ended Saturday night with Yunchan Lim becoming the competition's youngest winner of the gold medal. His winnings include a cash award of $100,000 and three years of career management.

The silver medalist was Anna Geniushene, a 31-year-old from Russia, and the bronze medalist is Dmytro Choni, a 28-year-old from Ukraine.

Lim told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he'll discuss with his teacher what the next move for his career should be.

AP

In this photo provided by The Cliburn, Yunchan Lim, of South Korea, performs a concerto with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra conducted by Chairman of the Jury Marin Alsop in the final round of the 16th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition at Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 12, 2022.

"I am still a student and I feel like I have to learn a lot still," Lim said. "This is a great competition and I feel the burden of receiving this great honor and award so I will just push myself to live up to the honor I received today."

The competition was founded in 1962 in honor of the celebrated pianist Van Cliburn, who lived in Fort Worth. Cliburn, who died in 2013 at age 78, played for U.S. presidents, royalty and heads of state around the world. He is best remembered for winning the first International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 1958, at the height of the Cold War.

'Lightyear' stays earthbound, 'Jurassic World' holds No. 1

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

"Lightyear" did not go to infinity (or beyond) in its first weekend in theaters: Pixar's first major theatrical release since March 2020 blasted off with $51 million in its debut weekend in North America, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

Not only did it open lower than expected, but it also failed to conquer "Jurassic World: Dominion," which held on to the first-place spot with $58.7 million its second weekend.

It is a mixed bag for Disney and Pixar as " Lightyear," an origin story about the movie that inspired the space ranger action figure in the "Toy Story" movies, is one of the biggest launches for an animated family film over the pandemic. Including international showings, which grossed $34.6 million, "Lightyear's" global opening weekend totals to $85.6 million.

But expectations were higher for a release this high-profile and based on a beloved, well-known character. Going into the weekend, some analysts had pegged "Lightyear" for a $70 million North American debut.

"The expectations are always incredibly high for any Pixar movie, particularly one that has a direct connection to the Toy Story brand," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for box office tracker Comscore.

"Toy Story" launched Pixar in 1995 and its four films have made over $3 billion. "Toy Story 3" and "Toy Story 4" also both broke the $1 billion mark.

Wife feels it's the end of the line with drunk hubby

DEAR ABBY: I got pregnant at 15 and had my oldest daughter at 16. I met my husband at 18, and went on to have four more daughters. I have been with him for more than 30 years (I just turned 49).

My girls are living their own lives now. The thing is, now that I'm alone with my husband, I have come to discover that we have nothing in common. I want to leave him, but I have no money, no car and no job. I have become someone I never thought I would become —xalone with no life!

My husband ignores me and drinks a lot. When we visit family, it's a free-for-all drunk fest for him. I just don't have the energy at my age to deal with a drunk. I dealt all my life with an alcoholic father and I don't want to do it anymore. How do I begin to rebuild my life and start over? I really need to do this for myself.

AT A CROSSROADS IN OHIO

DEAR AT A CROSSROADS: I agree that rebuilding your life is something you need to do for yourself. The surest way to accomplish it would be to get a job. This may eventually equip you to survive on your own. If you need transportation, ask your daughters for help, or take public transportation.

If you prefer not to attend "family" gatherings, have your husband go alone. Your father's alcoholism may have contributed to the fact that you married someone with an alcohol problem, thinking it was "normal." If that's the case, consider finding a nearby chapter of Al-Anon (al-anon.org/info) or Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (adultchildren.org) and attend some of the meetings. They are sometimes held online, so you could do it on a computer, if necessary. I wish you luck on your journey.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a widow with three serious illnesses, one of which is potentially deadly. I hesitate to confide in some of my friends because the majority of them go into a litany of their illnesses. For the most part, their ailments are common and require just a small change in diet or perhaps losing some weight. What makes it uncomfortable for me is they act like they are in a life-threatening situation, which they aren't.

I find it increasingly difficult to empathize with their common colds, achy joints, etc. How can I explain to these folks how much they upset me? For the most part, they are good people, just very self-centered.

CHALLENGED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

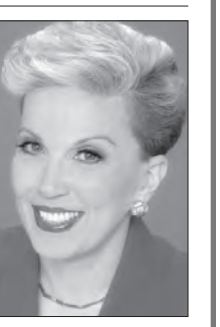
DEAR CHALLENGED: It may be unrealistic to expect friends who don't know about your serious medical conditions to empathize with you or stop complaining about their aches and pains. Rather than say their complaints are annoying, tell them the truth about what's going on with you. After that, try to remember that regardless of how minor, every person's health challenges are important to them, even if on the grand scale of things they don't seem that way to you.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

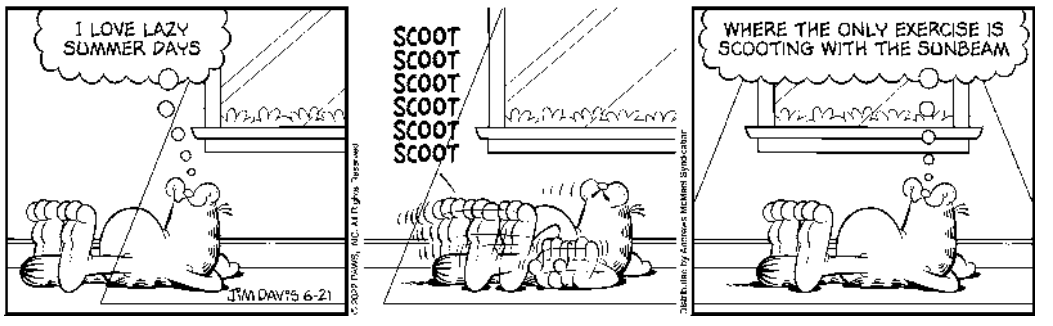
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I LIKE MY SMOCK.
GOOD. ...OK, I'LL DIVIDE UP THE CLAY. HERE'S YOURS.
YOU CAN TELL THE QUALITY OF THE ARTIST BY THE QUALITY OF HIS SMOCK.
UH HUH... YOU HAVE TO WORK THIS STUFF A BIT TO GET IT SOFT.
ACTUALLY, I JUST LIKE TO SAY SMOCK.
SEE, JUST KNEAD IT LIKE SO, AND THEN IT CAN BE MODELED.
SMOCK SMOCK SMOCK SMOCK SMOCK!
WHAT ON EARTH IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

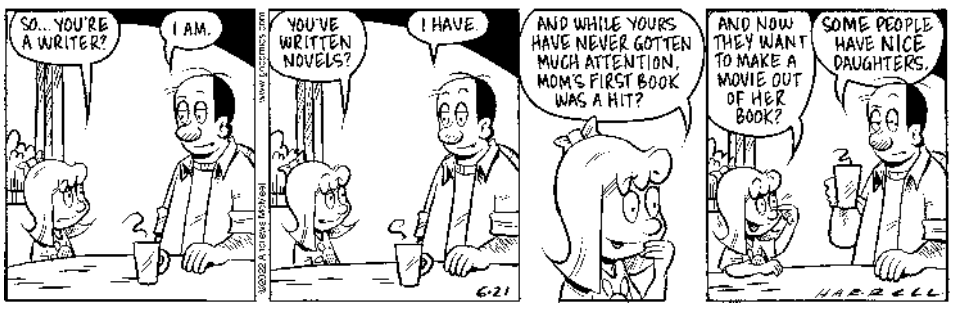
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO... YOU'RE A WRITER?
I AM.
YOU'VE WRITTEN NOVELS?
I HAVE.
AND WHILE YOURS HAVE NEVER GOTTEN MUCH ATTENTION, MOM'S FIRST BOOK WAS A HIT?
AND NOW THEY WANT TO MAKE A MOVIE OUT OF HER BOOK?
SOME PEOPLE HAVE NICE DAUGHTERS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP, I PRAY THE LORD MY SOUL TO KEEP.
IF I SHOULD DIE BEFORE THE DAWN...
PLEASE KEEP THE SQUIRRELS OFF OUR LAWN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wine valley
5 Shoe style
9 Pen tip
12 Decorates with frosting
13 Concept
14 Commotion
15 Front-page item
17 iPad platform
18 Flair
19 Calm intervals
21 Slow musical tempo
24 Flag maker Betsy
25 Mid-month date
26 Yellow turnip
30 Roman 1002
31 Examined, pre-burglary
32 Freedom, for short
33 Has faith
35 Mete (out)
36 Not all
37 Locates
38 Pickle juice
40 Carry on
42 Brink
43 Polaris
48 In the past
49 Streetcar
50 One of HOMES
51 Sandy shade
52 Easy targets
53 Walk unevenly

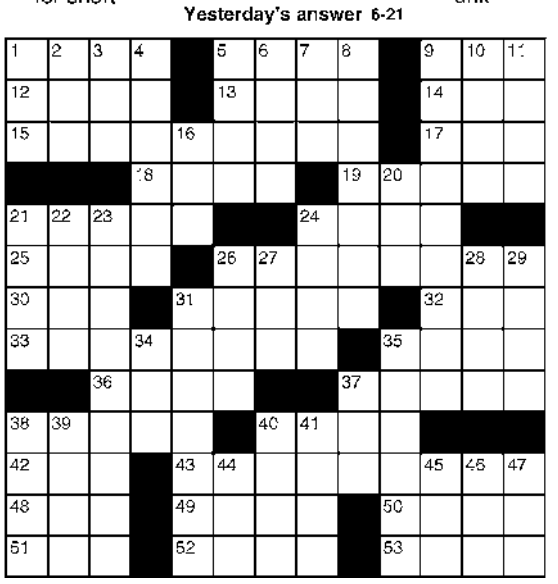
DOWN

1 Diarist Anaïs
2 Top card
3 Church seat
4 Strong points
5 Pocket bread
6 Japanese noodle
7 Debussy's "La —"
8 Spacecraft stat
9 Mani-pedi place
10 Teen fave
11 Employer
16 — -mo (replay speed)
20 PC port
21 Branch
22 Actress Falco
23 "Plaza Suite" playwright
24 GPS suggestions
26 Gushing review
27 Work with
28 Coat with gold
29 Fortas and Lincoln
31 Unites firmly
34 Charged bit
35 Truck fuel
37 E-I connection
38 Unruly kid
39 Latvia's capital
40 Enfold
41 $ dispensers
44 Mouths (Lat.)
45 Part of TNT
46 Goal
47 Workout unit

Solution time: 22 mins.

C	H	I	S	■	I	I	S	■	U	N	I	■
P	O	W	E	R	N	A	P	■	P	O	O	H
P	E	A	C	E	F	U	L	■	R	O	W	E
■	■	■	A	G	O	■	I	M	O	K	A	Y
S	I	G	N	S	■	S	T	O	A	■	■	■
A	B	E	■	■	P	A	P	E	R	E	D	■
Y	E	A	■	I	E	N	E	I	■	I	E	D
■	G	R	A	N	A	D	A	■	T	A	N	A
■	■	■	L	J	C	Y	■	T	I	L	T	S
R	I	A	L	T	O	■	P	E	C	■	■	■
O	M	N	I	■	C	H	I	C	K	P	E	A
M	A	T	E	■	K	A	T	H	L	E	E	N
O	N	E	S	■	S	I	S	■	E	T	N	A

Yesterday's answer 6-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lana Del Rey, 37; Prince William, 40; Chris Pratt, 43; Juliette Lewis, 49.

Happy Birthday: Make a lasting impression, knock the ball out of the park, be proud of what you accomplish and take on a leadership position. Acting courageously and making bold moves will help you get your life in gear and headed in the desired direction. Pay attention to risk factors, and counter whatever comes your way with precision and confidence. Your numbers are 7, 12, 19, 28, 31, 37, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your life simple, conversations honest and promises doable. A unique alternative will prove helpful when faced with a challenge that requires discretion, responsibility and honesty. Make financial gains, new beginnings and personal growth your priorities. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Channel your energy, finish what you start. A change will impact the way you take care of matters. Think about the possibilities, but don't make unrealistic promises. Gauge the time it will take and the cost involved before you commit. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Smile and make your entrance. Preparation will pay off and encourage you to take a bold approach to get your way. Stick to the truth, and recognize when someone isn't being honest with you. Call the shots and control the situation. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Slow down, take a deep breath and plan your actions with precision and detail. Bring attention to what's important to you, and establish how to get things done with the least amount of difficulty. Choose your battles wisely. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Set out on a discovery mission, and don't stop until you get answers. What you uncover will help you assess your direction and distance yourself from anyone trying to manipulate you. Use your intelligence and insight to your advantage. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Monitor what goes in and out of your financial accounts. Don't take on too much or limit what you can do because you've promised to help others. Being honest with everyone will help you maintain your plans without interference. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Think matters through. Refuse to let your emotions interfere and cause havoc to your plans and relationship with a friend, relative or peer. Take a cautious approach when dealing with investments. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look at how others do things before you decide to participate. Don't labor over something you cannot change. If something doesn't feel right or fit into your plans, take a pass and keep moving in a direction that suits you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't lose sight of your objective or let someone meddle with your plans. Concentrate on what's important to you and the changes you want to make at home to ease stress and make your surroundings more comfortable. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Think before making a move or saying something you'll regret. Pay attention and make decisions that will ease stress and simplify your life instead of causing unnecessary financial worry. Don't let a problem with a friend, relative or peer hold you back. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Set your sights and mind on a challenge, and don't stop until you are happy. Use experience, knowledge and basic instincts to overcome setbacks others cause. Protect your health and reputation. Put your valuables in a safe place. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A home improvement plan will keep you out of trouble. Don't argue with someone who doesn't see things your way. Go about your business and do things that please you. A change will help you put things in perspective. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, pioneering and sensitive. You are unique and helpful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		4			3		8
8		7			9			
	9							2
9				2			6	
			5		7			
	3			1				4
5							1	
			2			7		3
2		8			3		5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	3	8	7	1	4	5	9
8	5	4	9	2	3	7	6	1
1	9	7	5	4	6	8	2	3
3	4	5	7	6	8	1	9	2
2	7	1	3	9	5	6	8	4
9	8	6	4	1	2	3	7	5
5	6	8	2	3	4	9	1	7
4	1	9	6	5	7	2	3	8
7	3	2	1	8	9	5	4	6

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LET'S CONFABULATE Solution: 6 letters

S	V	V	O	C	A	L	I	Z	E	S	V	I	E	W
T	T	E	E	G	A	G	N	E	E	B	A	L	B	N
R	R	A	R	U	T	E	S	I	V	D	A	E	A	O
E	E	U	T	S	C	L	R	A	T	T	S	B	B	I
V	T	C	T	E	I	O	U	R	S	R	S	I	B	T
I	A	S	C	H	M	O	O	S	E	P	T	L	L	A
Ⓛ	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓒ	E	F	E	N	V	N	C	E	A	E	E
E	U	E	M	S	O	U	N	D	O	O	K	E	H	R
D	C	U	C	T	G	O	L	T	H	N	C	B	C	C
I	I	P	N	N	C	A	A	L	F	F	S	I	T	H
S	T	A	I	K	U	L	B	A	A	A	T	R	E	A
C	R	Y	A	S	K	O	L	B	B	B	O	C	C	F
U	A	E	L	O	S	S	N	L	L	P	R	S	I	F
S	P	J	A	R	G	O	N	N	E	E	Y	E	O	E
S	S	E	R	P	X	E	G	R	A	T	L	D	V	R

© 2012 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 6/21

Actual, Advise, Announce, Articulate, Babble, Blab, Call, Chatter, Chat, Confab, Consult, Converse, Creation, Deliver, Describe, Discuss, Engage, Express, Fable, Gabble, Gossip, Honest, Jargon, Libel, Loss, Memories, Rant, Reck, Report, Saying, Schmoose, Sound, Speak, Speech, Statement, Story, Tale, Talk, Tell, Truthful, Verbal, Version, View, Vocalize, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Campania

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 53 through 68,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Suwinski hits 3 HRs, Pirates beat Giants, 4-3

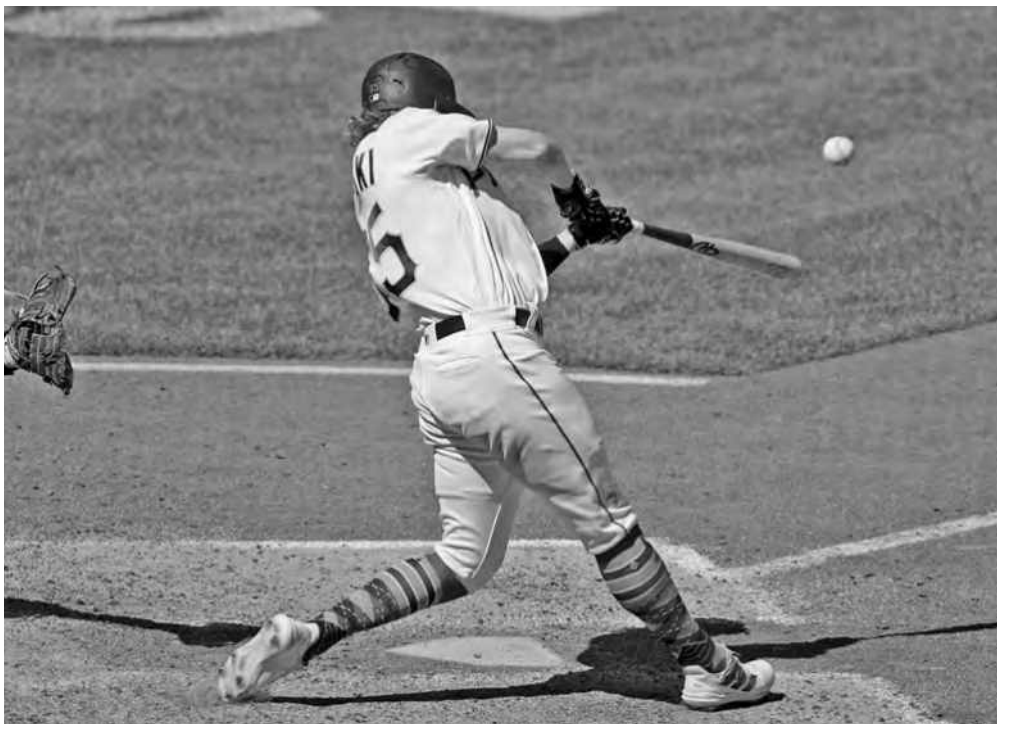
PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jack Suwinski hit his third homer of the game in the ninth inning, giving the Pittsburgh Pirates a 4-3, walk-off victory over the San Francisco Giants on Sunday to avoid a three-game sweep.

The rookie drove a slider from Tyler Rogers (0-3) to right for his second game-ending home run of the season after connecting for one June 4 against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Suwinski is the first Pirates rookie to hit three homers in a game since Andrew McCutchen on Aug. 1, 2009.

The 23-year-old Suwinski took a sinker from starter Alex Cobb deep for a solo shot in the fourth before doing the same to Sam Long for a 3-2 lead in the sixth. He has 11 home runs in 47 games this season.

Thairo Estrada homered off Pittsburgh closer David Bednar leading off the top of the ninth, tying the game at 3. Bednar (3-1) was working his second inning of relief and struck out two of the final three batters to end the ninth.



AP

Pittsburgh Pirates' Jack Suwinski hits a walkoff solo home run off San Francisco Giants relief pitcher Tyler Rogers during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, June 19, 2022. I

Blue Jays 10, Yankees 9

In Toronto, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. launched his fifth career grand slam, Teoscar Hernández hit a go-ahead, three-run homer and Toronto rallied to stop New York's nine-game winning streak.

Josh Donaldson, Anthony Rizzo, Gleyber Torres, Kyle Higashioka and Marwin Gonzalez each hit home runs for the

Yankees, who led 8-3 in the sixth inning. New York lost for just the second time in 18 games.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 17th home run and George Springer also connected for the Blue Jays.

Yankees relievers Miguel Castro and Wandy Peralta (1-1) couldn't protect the five-run lead.

Yimi Garcia (1-3) struck out three in 1 1/3 innings for the win.

Nationals 9, Phillies 3

In Washington, Juan Soto hit a three-run homer and Washington avoided a five-game sweep.

The Nationals ended an eight-game skid and snapped Philadelphia's seven-game road winning streak.

Nats starter Jackson Tetreault (1-1) earned his first major league victory in his second appearance. The 26-year-old right-hander gave up three unearned runs over seven innings, with two walks, six hits and two strikeouts.

Tetreault was hit in the lower left leg by a 105.7 mph comebacker by Matt Vierling in the seventh. Athletic trainer Paul Lessard and manager Dave Martinez checked on Tetreault, who remained in the game after an extended delay. He finished the inning before walking to the dugout with a slight limp.

Maikel Franco's sixth homer of the season put Washington up 8-3 in the fifth. Washington shortstop Luis García was 3 for 4.

Orioles 2, Rays 1

In Baltimore, Anthony Santander homered and pointed to his dad sitting in front of the press box as Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

Santander's solo home run helped the Orioles win back-to-back series against the Rays for the first time since 2017.

Orioles starter Jordan Lyles was scratched Sunday morning because of a stomach virus. As a result, manager Brandon Hyde was forced into a bullpen game.

Austin Voth, claimed by the Orioles off waivers from the Washington Nationals on June 7, made his first start of the season and 23rd of his five-year career. He threw 2 2/3 scoreless innings with four strikeouts.

The Orioles used seven pitchers and Nick Vespi (2-0) picked up the win after holding the Rays without a run over 11/3 innings. Jorge López earned his 11th save by getting the last four outs.

Tigers 7, Rangers 3

In Detroit, Robbie Grossman homered and drove in four runs as Detroit earned a split of the four-game series.

The Tigers and their league-worst offense scored five or more runs in consecutive games for the first time this season. Detroit had lost six straight before winning 14-7 Saturday.

For the second day in a row, the Rangers hit a homer in the first — this time, it was Corey Seager — only to let Grossman homer during a three-run reply in the bottom of the inning.

Marlins 6, Mets 2

In New York, Jerar Encarnación had a spectacular major league debut with a go-ahead, seventh-inning grand slam for his first hit and also threw out a runner at third base from right field, lifting Miami over the New York Mets.

Encarnación became the first player since at least 1901 with a grand slam and an outfield assist in his debut. He also stole a base in the ninth inning.

Wearing unfashionably high uniform No. 64, Encarnación struck out and grounded out in his first two at-bats, then came to the plate with the Marlins and Sandy Alcantara (7-2) trailing 1-0 in the seventh.

Brewers 6, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Victor Caratini and Hunter Renfroe each hit two-run homers as Milwaukee got its fourth straight win.

The Brewers swept the three-game series and have won seven of their last nine.

Milwaukee took a 4-3 lead into the seventh inning before Renfroe hit his 13th home run, a drive into the upper deck in left field off reliever Joel Kuhnel.

Brewers starter Adrian Houser (4-7) had a solid outing, allowing four hits and three runs through six innings while striking out five. Devin Williams pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Braves 6, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Ian Anderson pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning, Matt Olson hit three doubles and Atlanta beat Chicago.

Travis d'Arnaud and Michael Harris II homered for the defending World Series champion Braves, who avoided their first three-game losing streak of the season.

The Braves, who arrived in Chicago with a 14-game win streak, went 21-8 in a stretch of 29 straight games against teams that were under .500 at the time of the matchup.

Anderson (6-3) struck out six and walked two in a season-high 6 2/3 innings. The right-hander improved to 3-0 with a 4.37 ERA in four June starts.

Ian Happ had two of Chicago's six hits. The Cubs dropped to 3-12 in their last 15 games.

Red Sox 6, Cardinals 4

In Boston, Nick Pivetta pitched seven dominant innings with 10 strikeouts, Christian Vázquez hit a three-run homer and Boston won its fifth straight series.

Trevor Story added a solo shot and Jackie Bradley Jr. had a go-ahead single for the Red Sox, who rebounded after getting blown out 11-2 on Saturday night for their 13th victory in 17 games.

St. Louis wrapped up just its second visit to Fenway Park in 14 years. The Cardinals have lost three of four.

Juan Yepez had a pinch hit three-run homer in the ninth and Tyler O'Neill had three hits for the Cardinals.

Pivetta (7-5) gave up just one run and four hits, with four walks. He's 7-1 with a 1.77 ERA in his last nine starts. Tanner Houck struck out Brendan Donovan for the final out for his fourth save.

Rockies 8, Padres 3

In Denver, San Diego star third baseman Manny Machado sprained his left ankle while taking a tumble running out a grounder and Colorado completed a three-game sweep.

Machado, in the midst of a stellar season, was injured in the first inning and exited the game. The Padres said X-rays were negative.

Randal Grichuk homered to cap a five-run fifth inning and the Rockies beat San Diego for the 10th straight time at Coors Field, their longest home winning streak against the Padres in team history.

Antonio Senzatela (3-3) pitched six strong innings, Elias Diaz also homered and C.J. Cron had three hits for Colorado.

Athletics 4, Royals 0

In Oakland, Calif., Jared Koenig pitched into the sixth inning for his first career win and combined with three relievers on a three-hitter, helping Oakland end an eight-game home losing streak.

Seth Brown had three hits, including his first home run at the Oakland Coliseum in nearly a year. Sean Murphy also connected to help the A's avoid a three-game sweep. Oakland, which won for the third time in 18 games overall, still owns the worst record in baseball at 23-45.

The Royals stranded six runners in scoring position and were shut out for the ninth time this season.

Diamondbacks 7, Twins 1

In Phoenix, Buddy Kennedy hit a grand slam for his first big-league homer, Christian Walker added two solo shots and Arizona beat Minnesota.

Merrill Kelly (6-4) threw seven effective innings as the D-backs built their lead. The right-hander gave up one run on five hits, striking out five and walking none.

The Diamondbacks took two of three games in the series.

Pavin Smith snapped an 0-for-23 skid with a single in the second. He added a solo homer in the fifth that gave Arizona a 3-1 lead.

Angels 4, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Mike Trout homered for the fifth time in the five-game series and Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Trout tied the record for any player in a single series against the Mariners, along with George Bell in 1987 and Boston's Trevor Story earlier this season. Trout's two-run drive in the fourth inning was his 52nd career homer against Seattle, matching Rafael Palmeiro for the most by any player off the Mariners.

The three-time AL MVP has 21 homers this season, four behind major league leader Aaron Judge of the Yankees.

Max Stassi added an RBI double for the Angels, who won four of five against Seattle.

Guardians 5, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Andrés Giménez drove in the go-ahead run with the bases-loaded in the ninth inning, Oscar Gonzalez hit his first major league homer and scored the winning run, and Cleveland rallied to beat Los Angeles.

The surging Guardians took two of three from the Dodgers and have won 15 of their last 19. Cleveland was missing AL RBI leader José Ramírez for the second straight game due to right thumb discomfort.

Shane Bieber struck out nine in 6 1/3 innings. The Guardians are unbeaten in their last 11 games when the right-hander is on the mound. Eli Morgan (3-2) got the win and Emmanuel Clase retired the Dodgers in order in the ninth for his 15th save.

Astros 4, White Sox 3

In Houston, rookie J.J. Matijevic homered for his first major league hit and Mauricio Dubón added a two-run shot to power Houston.

The victory broke a tie between Astros manager Dusty Baker and White Sox manager Tony La Russa, giving the 73-year-old Baker a 106-105 edge against the 77-year-old La Russa in regular-season matchups dating to 1996.

Houston led by 3 in the eighth before AJ Pollock had an RBI triple and scored on Jake Burger's grounder. Héctor Neris struck out Reese McGuire to limit the damage.

Ryan Pressly walked the leadoff batter in the ninth before retiring the next three to get his 13th save.

Matijevic made it 2-0 when he sent a fastball from Michael Kopech (2-3) into the seats in left field for an opposite-field homer with two outs in the fourth inning.

Danny Mendick walked with one out in the fifth and scored on a two-out double by Robert that cut the lead to 2-1. Dubón's homer int he bottom of the inning made it 4-1.

Houston starter Cristian Javier (4-3) allowed five hits and one run while tying a season-high with four walks in five innings to get his first win since May 25.

Smith, Holmgren, Banchero top list of forwards in NBA draft

By AARON BEARD
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Forwards are expected to dominate Thursday's NBA draft, starting with the trio of Gonzaga's Chet Holmgren, Auburn's Jabari Smith and Duke's Paolo Banchero. They are the headliners at the position and have been widely ranked as the top prospects overall with their size and open-floor potential.

Here's a look at the draft's top forwards:

AP

Gonzaga center Chet Holmgren brings the ball up against Georgia State during the second half of a first-round NCAA college basketball tournament game March 17, 2022, in Portland, Ore.

HOLMGREN

The nation's No. 1 recruit lived up to expectations for the Zags as a second-team Associated Press All-American.

STRENGTHS: The 7-foot, 195-pound Holmgren has an unusual mix of fluid perimeter skills with a roughly 7-5 wingspan. He averaged 14.1 points, 9.9 rebounds and 1.9 assists while shooting 60.7% alongside a returning AP All-American in Drew Timme.

He made 39% of his 3-point tries and had 14 games with at least two made 3s, showing the kind of consistency sure to pull less-mobile bigs from the basket. And he has the ball-handling skills to take advantage — just look at his length-of-court, behind-the-back drive for a dunk against UCLA for proof — for unique shot-creating potential in such a long frame.

At the other end, Holmgren proved an elite rim protector, ranking fourth in Division I with 3.7 blocks per game.

CONCERNS: He needs to get stronger. He struggled at times with physical play and could use the added bulk for finishing through contact, too.

SMITH

The 6-10, 220-pound freshman was a second-team AP All-American who helped the Tigers claim their first-ever No. 1 ranking.

STRENGTHS: The 19-year-old Smith is a rangy forward with potential to impact both ends of the floor. He averaged 16.9 points, 7.4 rebounds and 2.0 assists with ability to play in the post or step outside, where he shot 42% from 3-point range with a quality jumper. He also made 79.9% of his free throws to convert when drawing fouls. He also averaged 1.0 blocks and 1.1 steals with the versatility to chase multiple positions, making him ESPN's No. 2 overall prospect.

"I just see myself defending, affecting winning and just doing whatever a team needs me to do," Smith said. "Spacing the floor, knocking down shots, running the floor, and just showing all assets to my game.

CONCERNS: Smith shot just 42% overall with heavy reliance on his jump shot, so he could use a bit more development with creating off the drive and improving his ball handling (1.9 turnovers per game) for easier looks.

BANCHERO

The 6-10, 250-pound freshman was the Blue Devils' focal point in a Final Four run under now-retired Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski.

STRENGTHS: The 19-year-old Banchero averaged 17.2 points and 7.8 rebounds with the strength to tussle inside and mobility to roam the perimeter. Ranked as ESPN's No. 3 draft prospect, the AP third-team All-American was comfortable snatching down a rebound and leading the break. And his skillset proved particularly effective in being able to overpower smaller defenders, move around less-mobile bigs and score in the midrange with polish.

Banchero said Friday he feels he is "the best player in the draft, I feel like I showed that throughout the year." Duke associate head coach Chris Carrawell said he thinks Banchero should be go No. 1 overall, too.

"For a non-guard at his size, he can create shots from the inside and out," Carrawell said. "That's rare."

CONCERNS: Banchero shot just 33.8% on 3-pointers, though he was better in the NCAA Tournament. He also had stretches when he could assert himself and impose his will even more, including going the final 7 1/2 minutes of the Final Four loss to rival North Carolina with no baskets and only two shot attempts. Banchero also needs to improve defensive consistency.

OTHERS TO WATCH

■ **KEEGAN MURRAY:** While the Holmgren-Smith-Banchero trio could go 1-2-3, the Iowa forward and first-team AP All-American won't be far behind. The 6-8, 225-pound Murray, who turns 22 in August, made a rapid rise from averaging 7.2 points as a freshman to 23.5 points and 8.7 rebounds while shooting 55.4% overall and 39.8% on 3-pointers. That all-around development has made him ESPN's No. 5 overall prospect at a loaded position.

■ **JEREMY SOCHAN:** The 6-9, 230-pound freshman offers defensive versatility and toughness in a developing game. ESPN's No. 15 draft prospect averaged 9.2 points and 6.4 rebounds for Baylor, and turned 19 only last month.

■ **E.J. LIDDELL:** The Ohio State junior has a strong frame (6-7, 243 pounds) ready to handle physical play. The AP third-team All-American averaged 19.4 points and 7.9 rebounds while shooting 49% from the field and 37% from 3-point range. Liddell is ESPN's No. 20 draft prospect.

■ **JAKE LARAVIA:** The 6-8, 227-pound junior made a quick impact at Wake Forest after transferring in following two years at Indiana State. He showed versatility while averaging 14.6 points and 6.6 rebounds and shooting 38% from behind the arc as a potential first-round prospect.

■ **DOMINICK BARLOW:** The 6-9, 221-pound Barlow played for the Overtime Elite developmental program for top prospects who bypass college basketball. He's a potential second-round pick.

All eyes on the NFL's pending decision on Deshaun Watson

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

While Deshaun Watson maintains his innocence and fights to clear his name, the Cleveland Browns and football fans everywhere wait for the NFL to determine an appropriate penalty for the star quarterback accused of sexual misconduct by 24 women.

A person familiar with the league's investigation told The Associated Press a decision is expected before training camp. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the investigation, conducted by Lisa Friel and Todd Jones, is still ongoing.

Once it concludes, former U.S. District Judge Sue Robinson, who was jointly appointed by the league and the NFL Players' Association, will review the league's findings to decide whether Watson violated the personal conduct policy and whether to impose discipline.

This will be Robinson's first case since being hired as the league's disciplinary officer under the latest collective bargaining agreement finalized in March 2020. Previously, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell had the authority to suspend players.

The league and the union can recommend a potential length of suspension. If either the union or league appeals Robinson's decision, Goodell or his designee "will issue a written decision that will constitute full, final and complete disposition of the dispute," per terms of Article 46 in the CBA.

Watson is not facing criminal charges after two grand juries in Texas declined to indict him. But he's facing civil lawsuits from 24 massage therapists accusing him of sexual assault and harassment during private sessions when he played for the Houston Texans.

On Tuesday, Watson stood by previous comments proclaiming his innocence.

"I never assaulted anyone," Watson said. "I never harassed anyone or I never disrespected anyone. I never forced anyone to do anything."

The NFL has punished several players for violating the league's personal conduct policy without criminal charges.

In 2010, Ben Roethlisberger received a six-game suspension after being accused of sexual assault by two women. The recently retired two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers was not charged in either case and didn't appeal the league's suspension.

The league promised to get tougher against players accused of violence against women following fallout from Ray Rice's case in 2014. The former Baltimore Ravens star running back was initially suspended two games for an altercation with his future wife in a hotel elevator. After video emerged of Rice knocking her out and dragging her body out of the elevator, the league suspended him indefinitely. Rice won his appeal and was reinstated two months later but never played in the league again.

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott received a six-game suspension in 2017 for using "physical force" against his former girlfriend three times in a span of five days resulting in injuries to her face, neck, shoulders, arms, hands, wrists, hips and knees.

New Orleans Saints quarterback Jameis Winston got three games for a sexual harassment accusation in 2018 when he played for Tampa.

Overall, more than 20 players have received suspensions for violating the personal conduct policy since 2014.

The league is well aware of public opinion in Watson's case. The person familiar with the league's internal discussions told the AP the NFL has learned from past mistakes of leniency in cases involving violence or sexual assault against women and that the allegations against Watson are severe enough to warrant a strict penalty.

Marc Ganis, the president of sports consulting firm Sportscorp Ltd., said the league can't punish Watson based on the majority view. Of course, the NFL's disciplinary process is set up to avoid emotional and reactionary punishment.

"Public sentiment should not be the driving force behind a punishment. It should be facts, information and it should be whether the behavior rises to the form of punishment for a player. The problem that Deshaun Watson has isn't the court of public opinion, but even if he did what he acknowledges having done, it's still problematic and at least a level of unusual activity for an NFL player and can be misconstrued as misconduct."

It's possible Watson would be required to agree to counseling. He raised plenty of eyebrows with his "no regrets" comments on March 25, when he was introduced by the Browns after they persuaded him to waive his no-trade clause and signed him to a fully guaranteed five-year, $230 million contract despite his legal troubles.

Watson has acknowledged that comment may have negatively affected others.

"I do have regrets as far as the impact that (it's had) on the community and people outside of just myself," Watson said. "And that includes my family. That includes this organization. That includes my teammates in this locker room that have to answer to these questions. That includes the fan base of the Cleveland Browns.

"That includes males, females, everyone across the world. That's one thing I do regret is the impact that it's triggered on so many people."

Attorney Tony Buzbee, who represents all the women suing Watson, wants more contrition.

"We think it would be appropriate to see Deshaun Watson express some regret or remorse in the way he treated these women, some of which have sued and many others haven't, yet," Buzbee said in a statement. "Attending some sort of counseling would be at least some step forward. We have nothing else to say on the subject."

Johnson, Mister beat Tahiti, Solomons in beach v-ball

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

» Triathlon, badminton also get underway
» Sinclair, Schorr win anew in tennis

The NMI men's team scored wins against Solomon Islands and Tahiti in Day 1 of the beach volleyball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 yesterday at the Crowne Plaza sand courts.

Andrew Johnson and Logan Mister first took on Solomon Islands at noon and won before squaring off against Tahiti in the 4pm match and scored an upset of sorts (scores were not available as of press time).

"Feeling really good, I think that was probably one of the hardest competitions we are probably gonna have. I think, I don't know but Tahiti has done well in like the past Pacific Games and the past Mini Games, so we are feeling good but we can't let it get to our heads because we might be challenging them again in bracket play, but we are feeling great, really fired up," said Johnson.

At one point in the game against the Solomons, Mister threw up due to the debilitating heat. Despite the double victories, Johnson said he and Mister are not relaxing any tiny bit.

"We're super stoked on the wins, but there's a long road ahead. We have two more games of pool play tomorrow and then bracket play should begin on Wednesday or Thursday. Bracket play is single elimination, which means one loss and we're out of the contention for gold. We just have to stay consistent for the rest of the week," he said.

The NMI women strikers were not as fortunate though as Kathy Winkfield and Charnessa Lizama lost their first two matches against Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

In tennis, top seed Colin Sinclair breezed past the second round with a win over Louam Boivin of New Caledonia, 6-0 6-2. His doubles partner, Robbie Schorr also beat Dakota Gibson of Guam, 6-0 6-1.

For the women, Isabel Heras overcame a slow start to defeat Tahiti's Vaiani Dusserre-Valleaux, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Serin Chung, meanwhile, lost to Vanuatu's Lorraine Banimataku, 6-2, 6-1.

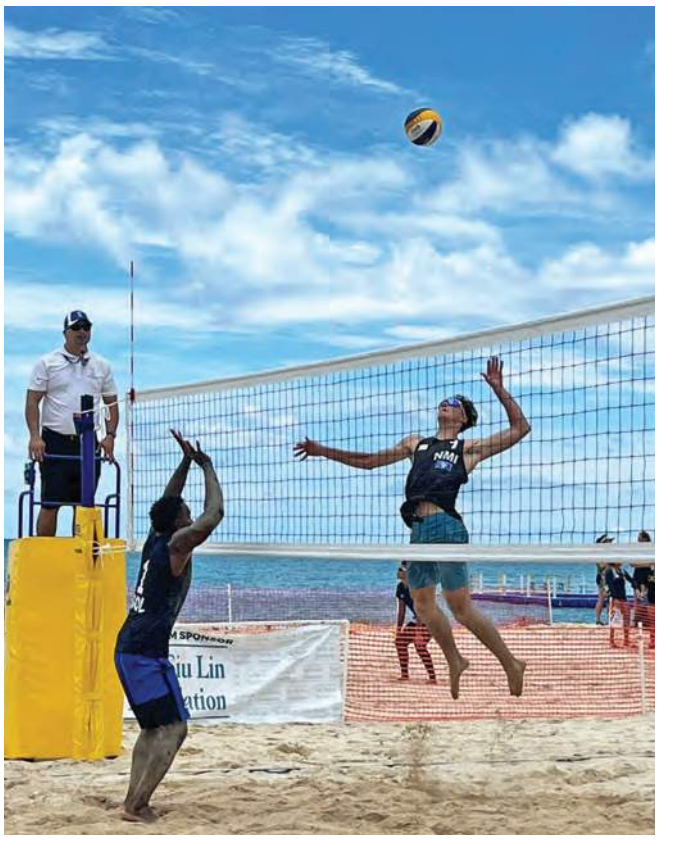
In the women's doubles, Asia Raulerson and Isabel Heras upended Tahiti's Dusserre-Valleaux and Mehetua Boosie, 6-4 6-1, but Fremont Gibson and Sydney Packbier of Guam did a number on Chung and Hye Jin Elliott, 6-3, 6-2. Raulerson and his partnership with Schorr also lost to Ana Taminika and Matavao Fanguana of Tonga, 6-4 7-5.

In badminton, Team NMI lost to Tahiti, 5-0, and New Caledonia with the same score as the mixed event of the competition kicked off at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Golf competition starts tomorrow with CNMI top golfer J.J. Atalig feeling good about the CNMI's prospects in the competition at their "home field" of the Coral Ocean Resort.

"We're feeling good and putting in extra work and the final stuff that needs to be worked on. We're waiting for the games to start," he said, adding they will try to get good scores not necessarily as individuals but as a team.

On Rota, Tahiti's Benjamin Zorgnotti won the gold medal in the men's triathlon, while Guam's Minami Iijima topped the women's field. ***(with reports from Angel Li, Jin Kim Abogado, and Chrystal Marino)***



ANGEL LI

The NMI's Logan Mister gets ready to smack the ball in their game against Solomon Islands in Day 1 of the beach volleyball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 yesterday at the Crowne Plaza sand courts.

Athletes encouraged to participate in VOA programme this week

The Oceania National Olympic Committee, through its Athletes' Commission, has activated the "Voices of the Athletes' Programme" for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 on Saipan this week.

"Voices of the Athletes (VOA) is a flagship programme using athletes for advocacy and action surrounding social issues," said ONOC staff Matelita Buadromo.

Buadromo says the VOA team will be at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan from 11am to 8pm, from Monday to Wednesday this week.

The VOA team has averaged over 100 visits a day since they opened the programme at the Games Village at the Grandvrio Resort last Friday.

Athletes are encouraged to visit the VOA booths and participate in the interactive activities the VOA educators have prepared.

"The VOA is also an important facilitator of a Governance and Representation mechanism in that athletes use the platform to also elect their representative to the Pacific Games Council (PGC) which is treated as the Olympic Movement's Continental Games from Oceania," Buadromo added.

The current Athletes' Representative to the PGC and the ONOC Athletes' Commission and Executive is Papua New Guinean swimmer and now sports administrator, Ryan Pini.

Buadromo said it began in 2007 and evolved into its current interactive format delivered across multiple games.

The VOA has made significant impact, one of the early ones being on a "Go Green" environmental messaging and work targeting pollution and single-use plastic in the Pacific islands with PNG ultimately winning an IOC Sustainability Award in 2012.

The five key VOA messages that address various social issues are (1) Play Safe-STOP HIV AIDS; (2) Stay Healthy-Prevention of NCDs, (3) Play True-Say No To Doping, (4) Go Green-Sustainable Coastlines, and (4) Be A Leader.

The programme facilitators for the Pacific Mini Games include Jeegar Bhavsar (Fiji), Matelita Vuakoso (Fiji), Eugene Vollmer (Fiji), Kapu Repo (PNG), Guinevere Borja (CNMI), Brittany Wally (CNMI) Dianne Pablo (CNMI) and Matelita Buadromo (ONOC). ***(PR)***

RAY

From Page 20

competition—with a total lift of 207 kg. Masi and Vuratu were second in total lift with 199 kg and 177 kg, respectively.

And since the Mini Games is also being used as the 2022 Oceana Weightlifting Championships, Santos also got a gold medal for that too.

"It's an unreal feeling. We've been training so hard for this and I'm probably doing it for redemption from the last time I competed in the Oceania [Weightlifting Championships]. I didn't make it as I didn't make any lifts so this is redemption!"

Santos said he started training last year and began cutting weight last January. Asked to whom he's dedicating the four gold medals to, he said, "My family, people who've been there for me and supporting me. This is for you guys. Representing the CNMI has always been my dream. We made it, we did it!"

In his third and final attempt in the clean & jerk, Santos tried to lift 125 kg. "I just wanted to push myself. I've done it before but haven't done it in this weight class."

He added that he practices at least two hours a day and used to compete at 67 kg, where he lifted his personal best of 136 kg.

Santos is also poised to get monetary incentives given by the CNMI government for gold medalists of the Games. As it stands, he's looking at an $18,000 windfall, which he said he will deposit in the bank for his daughter's future.

In the women's 49-kg class, PNG's Dika Toua won the division and in the process took home her 13th overall Oceania Weightlifting Championships gold medal.

The 38-year-old Olympian lifted 74 kg in the snatch and a new Oceania record 96 kg in the clean & jerk to win gold in both events. She added a third with the total weight of 170 kg and a forth with the Oceania medal.

"I'm on top of the world as I'm preparing for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. This has given me the confidence to work a little further on forward. I still have a lot in me which I will do at the Commonwealth Games. I'm looking forward for the competition and hopefully a gold medal for Papua New Guinea once again," Toua told *Saipan Tribune*.

Coming in second to Toua in all three categories is her younger sister, Thelma, who had a snatch of 63 kg and a clean & jerk of 86 kg for a total of 141 kgs. Solomon Islands' Rowena Donga settled for the bronze in all three categories—plus the Oceania tilt—with lifts of 62 kg (snatch), 81 kg (clean & jerk), and 137 kg (total).

During the medal presentation it was also announced that Dika Toua was enshrined into the International Weightlifting Federation's hall of fame that brought her to tears.

The elder Toua started weightlifting at age of 10 and had her first competition at 13 years old. "I will be 38 in three days. Age doesn't matter as long as you believe in yourself, you can do it."

She added that she doesn't mind making the CNMI her future home if given a choice.

"It's a beautiful island if I were to have an option where to go I will choose the CNMI. It's a beautiful little island."

Toua also gave high marks to the CNMI's hosting of the Games.

"The accommodations and transportation are well planned and well organized. We're really privileged. This is the first time we've stayed in a hotel in the Pacific Games. You really set a standard. The venue is just in an international level and maybe you can hold a world championships here with this setup. It's world class. Thank you very much to the CNMI weightlifting federation and also the Mini Games Organizing Committee. You've been an incredible host to the other countries," she said.

NMI

From Page 20

viewed through an interpreter, Fabian Dihn, chef de mission of team New Caledonia, who said that he feels "very proud because New Caledonia won against Tahiti and because he is the coach and father of the winner."

He further said that his son has been training every day over the course of the last six to seven years.

When asked what to expect in today's races, Mainquet said through his interpreter that they came to Saipan for gold. "Tahiti is good but the coach and his team came here for gold," said Dihn.

After New Caledonia's win in the men's V12 500m sprint, Tahiti was seen still in good spirits, as Tahiti women's team bagged gold in both V1 and V12 races, with times of 2:31.45 and 2:08.28 respectively.

Tahiti coach Titini Teihoarii, through interpreter Tetuhauarii Suhas, said about losing to New Caledonia that "there is no secret. There were three big teams, they were all ready and there's one winner." As for their expectations for today's races, he said that "we're prepared. We're sure New Caledonia is prepared so we'll see what happens."

In the current standings for women's V1 500m, Tahiti won gold, Fiji won silver, and Norfolk Island won bronze.

For the women's V12 500m, Tahiti won gold and Guam won silver.

Tahiti won silver and Fiji won bronze in the men's V1 500m.

Lastly, Tahiti won silver and Wallis and Futuna won bronze in the men's V12 500m.

TEAM

From Page 20

putting Solomon Islands at 0-1 in the standings.

Additionally, Palau is 2-0 in the leaderboard and is the team to beat, according to Flores. "They're a good team, but I know my boys will show up to play… Our bats just got to come alive. Our pitching is coming around, our defense is there. We just got to come out and swing the bat and manufacture runs. They're a great team, they have a great overall hitting team… great defense… We're gonna come in and we're going to be getting ready," said Flores.

Guam is 1-1 in the standings after a loss to Team NMI in the opening baseball game last Thursday and after a win against Fiji last Saturday. Fiji is 0-2 in the standings.

Suwinski hits 3 HRs, Pirates beat Giants, 4-3

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Johnson, Mister beat Tahiti, Solomons in beach v-ball

PAGE 19

Ray Santos bags 3 gold medals

» PNG's Dika Toua gets 13th gold, enshrined in hall of fame

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Raymond Santos gave the CNMI three more gold medals as the weightlifting competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 began yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Competing in the 55-kg class, the 31-year-old Koblerville Elementary School special education teacher lifted 93 kg in his third and last try in the snatch to edge Philip Masi of the Solomon Islands, who had a snatch of 92 kg to take the silver. Third place and the bronze went to Papua New Guinea's Eroni Vuratu with a best lift of 82 kg.

Then in the clean & jerk, Santos had a final lift of 115 kg—7 kg more than his closest rival—to claim his second gold medal. Masi was again the runner-up and took the silver with a lift of 108 kg, while Vuratu settled for the bronze with a lift of 105 kg.

For winning both lifts, Santos also got the overall gold—his third of the

See RAY on Page 19

MARK RABAGO
Raymond Santos shows off his four gold medals in the 55-kg class of the joint Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and 2022 Oceania Weightlifting Championships yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Left, the 31-year-old Koblerville Elementary special education teacher in action.

NMI women take bronze in V12 after PNG disqualification

LEIGH GASES
Some members of Team NMI women's *va'a* crew pose for a photo before their V12 500m race yesterday in the shores of the 13 Fishermen Monument

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The outrigger canoe competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 got underway yesterday with the NMI women's V12 salvaging the bronze and New Caledonia topping the V1 and V12 races in the waters off the 13 Fishermen Monument.

The NMI women's V12 500m team took the bronze after Papua New Guinea was disqualified from the race due to a start fault and for finishing outside their designated lane. Tahiti won the gold in the women's V12 with Guam getting silver.

NMI national coach Justin Andrew said after the race that the team "performed to what I expected them to perform and beyond that. They did very well in competing against the top teams in the Pacific."

He stated further that yesterday's race is a prelude to today's race, "although the format will be a little bit different. We'll see more agility, more teamwork on the flags, because it's going to involve turning. And so, we pray for good weather."

Over in the men's races, the gold medal for the final V1 500m sprint went to New Caledonia's Albert Mainquet with a time of 2:11.23, as New Caledonia dominated and upset Mini Games previous winner Tahiti in both the V1 500m and the V12 500m.

Coach and father of New Caledonia's V1 men's winner, Philippe Mainquet was inter-

See NMI on Page 19

Team NMI run-rules Fiji, 17-0

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI National Baseball Team bounced back from a humiliating loss to Palau by also mercy run-ruling Fiji, 17-0, yesterday as the baseball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 continued at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Team NMI scored seven runs in the first inning against Fiji and Fiji was unable to retaliate in the next five innings.

In the second inning, four more runs were scored by Team NMI, giving them a huge 11-0 lead over the lagging Fijians.

Starting pitcher Shane Yamada gave up just one hit but maintained zero runs all throughout his five innings pitched. Franko Nakamura came out in the sixth and last inning to deny Fiji from scoring at all.

Team NMI coach Deron U. Flores said, "the boys came in this game and picked up where we left off and tried to get back on the winning track… 17 runs. Shane had a hell of a game. Franko came out and threw a one-hitter."

He added that they will be ready against team Solomon staring today at 2pm.

Solomon Islands lost to powerhouse Palau last Friday with a blowout score of 21-0,

See TEAM on Page 19

LEIGH GASES
Team NMI pitcher Shane Yamada winds up for a pitch against Fiji in their 17-0 win yesterday at the Francisco "Tan' Ko" N. Palacios Baseball Field

MEDAL STANDINGS

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Papua New Guinea	4	2	1	7
Guam	4	1	3	8
Northern Mariana Islands	4	0	1	5
Solomon Islands	3	4	2	9
Tahiti	3	2	1	6
New Caledonia	2	5	2	9
Fiji	0	2	4	6
Vanuatu	0	1	0	1
Norfolk Island	0	0	1	1
Tonga	0	0	1	1
American Samoa	0	0	0	0
Australia	0	0	0	0
Cook Islands	0	0	0	0
Federated States of Micronesia	0	0	0	0
Kiribati	0	0	0	0
Nauru	0	0	0	0
Palau	0	0	0	0
Samoa	0	0	0	0
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0
Wallis & Futuna	0	0	0	0